

confidence the skunk places in its power to eject its strong malodorous secretion for defense against its would-be foes.

Next day we proceeded from Smoke Lake to South Tea Lake, until we reached the head of the Muskoka River, where we pitched our tent.

The Muskoka River is frequented by the Speckled or Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), which species of fish differs markedly from the salmon-trout in the absence of a toothed crest, or bony projection, on the vomer; and in the lack of a band of teeth on the hyoid bone; each of which characters is possessed by the latter. The speckled trout manifests great variability of size and colour, purely regulated, it would seem, by environment, for it inhabits streams, lakes, and even the sea. The sea run variety is known as *immaculatus*, specimens of which were obtained by Dr. Wakeham, at Fort Churchill, when in charge of the "Diana" in her Hudson Bay Expedition. The speckled trout is generally of a dusky green colour, and is ornamented along the sides with bright red spots.

At a bridge, crossing a dam, from which the Muskoka River has its rise, I saw one of those singular rodents called the Ground-hog or Wood-chuck (*Arctomys monax*), which creature, although belonging to the *Sciuridæ*, or the family of the squirrels, is exceedingly unlike these latter, both in general appearance and in its habits. It is thick-set in form, having little of the slender squirrel's nimbleness; and it makes great burrows in the ground, something like those of a fox, instead of spending its time among foliage and at the tree tops. Typically the ground-hog is one of the marmots.

Everywhere among the lakes of the Park the Great Northern Diver (*Urinator imber*), well known as the loon, has its home. This bird inhabits the round of the northern hemisphere, and frequents both fresh and salt water, never venturing, however, far out to sea. I have seen it in Northumberland Straits, and among lakes without number in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The more one studies the habits of the loon the more interesting it becomes. One may frequently hear its weird cry by night and suppose that to be the limit of its vocalism; the truth is the number of sounds it utters is very varied. Then although it is most