

Forest Fires and Canada's Fur Trade

By Wm. MacMillan (of Holt, Renfrew & Co.)

Seldom does the casual observer or even the interested individual for that matter, ever see those two highly important subjects discussed together.

Much has been said and more has been written of the vast areas of timber lands, falling prey to the flames. Far easier to

reduce that resultant loss of lumber, into dollars and cents, than to estimate with the faintest degree of accuracy the pecuniary loss in so far as the fur bearers are concerned.

That forest fires destroy wild life is unquestioned—but to what extent is a

somewhat debatable question. Endowed with keen brains and active bodies, most of the wild folk, it would appear, scurry before the onrush of the flames—on occasion leaving their young to fight as best they may.

To the experienced man of the woods, the action of certain wild creatures follows certain clearly defined lines, for instance, during a fire of any consequence, such peculiarly gifted animals as the Beaver and the Rat, plunge to the bottom of the nearest stream or lake, and being root-eaters, have no difficulty in finding sufficient nourishment. The Mink or Otter too, seek protection in the cool waters of a nearby stream and there find usually enough Muskrat and fish to guarantee them against hunger.

But these other non-water animals, the Moose, Caribou, Bear, Lynx, Fisher, Marten, Bear, etc., flee before the crackling flames to distant hunting grounds and seldom return to their former haunts till the second or third summer has attempted to clothe the burnt out section with an under carpet of green. Thus the game is pushed to the farther extremes of civilization and the trapper must needs hunt on more extended lines with its attendant increase in cost and hardship.

The fur business today stands with our forests, among the most powerful of the real assets of our future.

Just as the cry of the world is for our particular timber so the type of furs that men and women of the old and new worlds desire, has to be had in our wonderful Canadian forests, and only by the immediate enactment of wise legislation will our forests and fur bearers be conserved for the profit of the coming generations of Canadians.

MODERN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING.

Great as has been the advance in fire fighting methods and equipment in towns and cities in Canada in the last five years, the advance in fighting forest fires has been even greater. Dominion, provincial, and private forest organizations are now using airplanes, power launches, railway speeders, automobile trucks, and portable gasoline pumps, besides the old reliable horses, spades, hoes, and wet sacks, in their protective work, and are calling men out to danger points by means of telephones, heliographs, and others signalling apparatus.

The Arctic Eiderdown Robe Is a White Man's Bed

Woods Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Ottawa, Can.:

"While editor of Forest and Stream" I accumulated a collection of sleeping apparatus difficult to duplicate. Woollen blankets led the list, but they gave way to rabbit skin blankets made by the "Tete Boule" Squaws, a real skin, caribou lined sleeping bag, the work of Northern Labrador Eskimo and others.

The rabbit skin blanket developed a colony of "cooties," the sealskin bag became a wet and evil smelling abomination, and the wool blankets were the ordinary weighty nuisance. Then I became the owner of an Arctic Eiderdown Robe and found it a revelation of lightness, warmth and comfort; because I could crawl into it at night discarding tent or fire, and sleep as warmly and soundly as in my bed at home. I am writing this in a real spirit of gratitude and appreciation, hoping that others belonging to the shivery clan, that claims me in full tribe membership, will profit thereby. It is a white man's bed, regardless of how many minus degrees the thermometer marks. How you get so many "Calories" into it I don't know, but the important part is you do, and that is enough.

Yours very truly C. A. HAZEN.

THE value of an Arctic Eiderdown Robe can only be appreciated by actual use. Mr. C. A. Hazen has voluntarily written us regarding his experiences and upon solicitation consented to allow us to publish the accompanying extract from his letter.

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