

During the summer of 1893 while travelling northward between Athabasca lake and Chesterfield Inlet the Tyrrell brothers† saw on the shores of Carey lake about latitude 62° 15' a herd estimated to contain from 100,000 to 200,000 individuals.

In 1877 the caribou are reported to have crossed the north arm of Great Slave lake on the ice in an unbroken line which was fourteen days in passing and in such a mass that in the words of an eye witness "daylight could not be seen" through the column.‡

Wharburton Pike saw enormous numbers of caribou at Mackay lake, October 20, 1889 and says:—

"I cannot believe that the herds of Buffalo on the prairie ever surpassed in size *La Foule* (the throng) of the Caribou. *La Foule* had really come and during its passage of six days I was able to realize what an extraordinary number of these animals still roam the Barren Grounds."

Ernest Thompson Seton gives the following description of the migration of caribou as observed by Colonel Jones (Buffalo Jones) in October at Clinton Golden in the Barren Lands:

"He stood on a hill in the middle of the passing throng with a clear view ten miles each way and it was one army of Caribou. How much further they spread he did not know. Sometimes they were bunched, so that a hundred were on a space one hundred feet square; but often there would be spaces equally large without any. They averaged at least one hundred caribou to the acre; and they passed him at the rate of about three miles an hour. He did not know how long they were in passing this point; but at another place they were four days and travelled day and night. The whole world seemed a moving mass of Caribou. He got the impression at last that they were standing still and he was on a rocky hill that was rapidly running through their hosts."

Even halving these figures to keep on the safe side, we find that the number of Caribou in this army was over 25,000,000. Yet it is possible that there are several such armies."

It is reassuring as regards the future of Canada's big game to learn from Inspector Anderson that the caribou still exists in numbers which are comparable with those reported by these earlier observers.

†Can. Geol. Surv. Ann. Rept. vol. IX, n. ser. 1898, p. 165.

‡Frank Russell Expl. in the Far North, p. 88, 1898.