

Forty reindeer were brought by the Government from Dr. Grenfell's herds in Newfoundland, and were taken across Canada to Fort Smith, up in the Mackenzie River country. There they were placed in a reserved area and left to make themselves at home in new surroundings. It was hoped that they would take kindly to the change, and for a time they seemed to do so; but something over a year ago it was reported that of the forty animals all but three had died or escaped. The Mackenzie country did not suit the Newfoundland deer, and the attempted colonization proved a comparative failure.

There are still many deer in the North, however, and though the native deer of those wilderness parts are far less tractable for domesticating than the reindeer of Labrador or Alaska, they have in a few cases, at least, submitted to the taming process—in proof of which is the accompanying picture of a deer team that a persevering halfbreed in the Athabasca country has trained to harness.

Success in Alaska.

The reindeer has been a pronounced success in Alaska, where there are now some fifty thousand descendants of the fifteen or twenty animals originally imported from Siberia. As a beast of burden the reindeer is far more satisfactory than dogs, and it finds its own living, feeding the year round on the moss and lichens of the Alaskan plains. Its powers of endurance are remarkable. Two hundred pounds, besides the sled, is a normal load for one animal on a long journey. A few winters ago a Government official travelled four months with reindeer teams, covering two thousand miles of barren country, in which the deer lived entirely on moss that they dug from under the snow.

At another time a relief expedition was sent to the Arctic coast, where some whalers were ice-bound,

with three hundred reindeer, which were driven eight hundred miles with the temperature from twenty to fifty degrees below zero. The animals, which were intended for food for the imprisoned whalers, reached the end of the long journey in good condition, having foraged for their own food along the way.

The United States mails have also been carried along the Behring Sea coast, for several winters, by strong reindeer teams, and more satisfactorily than the Canadian mails in our own North-land have been carried by dog-teams.

Good for Meat Supply.

Another benefit that has followed the introduction of domesticated reindeer in Alaska has been the increase it has made in the meat-supply. Reindeer meat is not only the staple diet of the Alaskan natives but is already being shipped in small quantities to such markets as Seattle, and is finding its way to good American dinner tables. It is believed that, as the herds of reindeer increase, the mossy grazing grounds of Alaska will become a great meat-producing region for the Western States market.

The Canadian North has possibilities of exactly the same kind. It, too, can produce meat, and may some day be a valuable source of supply for our own market. The great sub-Arctic prairies are covered for hundreds of miles with rich grass, and in such abundant pasturage there is feeding for countless droves of cattle-kind. A suggestion has even been made that beef cattle should be taken into the North, as soon as the railroads make it possible, and turned out to feed upon the wide grass-covered plains of the Mackenzie and Athabasca territories; but at any rate those plains are the natural feeding-ground of meat-producers of almost equal value, the roving herds of deer and caribou. One of these days we shall perhaps be bringing down deer meat