

ON LAKE MISTASSINI.

VISIT TO THE UNKNOWN INLAND SEA OF THE NORTH.

Vast Quantities of Game Met on the Route—Bears in Abundance—Some Curious Indian Superstitions—Where the Foot of White Man Has Never Tread Before—The Successful Trip of a Scotch Explorer in Canada.

With no other companion than his four Indian guides, a young Scotchman—Archibald Stuart—who is visiting this country for sport, has just succeeded in doing what no other white man alone has done. He has made in safety this summer the entire trip from Lake St. John, Quebec, to Mistassini, the great inland sea in the far North, going by one route and returning by another. He has brought back with him an immense amount of the legendary lore and tribal superstitions of the peculiar aborigines inhabiting the interior of this far Northern country, has interviewed their oonjurors, secured the first set of photographs obtained of Mistassini's surroundings, discovered a succession of magnificent hunting grounds, offered superb attractions for the sportsman and tourist, and found very large areas of merchantable timber, and vast tracts of magnificent land, admirably suited for agricultural purposes, where there was hitherto supposed to be nothing but a worthless wilderness. Mr. Stuart's journey lasted from the 27th June to the 29th July, but to make it in comfort at least six weeks to two months would be required. It means a forest and stream trail, going and returning, nearly a thousand miles long.

BEARS IN ABUNDANCE.

The first quarter of the journey consisted of the ascent of the lower portion of the Ashuapmouchouan, one of Lake St. John's immense tributaries, for about a hundred miles, parts of which are only navigated with the greatest difficulty, on account of the wild rapids. Only three days up from Lake St. John Stuart met two Indian hunters bringing down no less than thirteen bear skins to sell. Bears are exceedingly plentiful here, and, in fact, throughout the whole of this northern country. Their tracks are seen in abundance upon all the portages. The Pemona rapids are the most dangerous of the Ashuapmouchouan series, and must be faced in canoes, the high cliffs on either side of them forbidding the possibility of portaging around them. Sometimes in poling up them it is impossible to find the bottom, and then the canoes are violently swept down stream at imminent risk of destruction. Up the perpendicular cliffs at the sides the Indians declare that one of their sorcerers, some few years ago, walked to the top like a fly, bringing down with him a number of birds' nests and their eggs; and they add, with a shake of the head, that "it was not with the aid of the good God, but rather with the assistance of the devil," that he did it. Amphibious human beings, called by the Indians "river men," are believed by them to have formerly occupied parts of Canada, and Father Charlevoix, in his works, tells some curious stories concerning them that were repeated by the Indians to the first discoverers of the country. Mr. Stuart's guides pointed out to him the exact spot in the Pemona rapids where, as they allege, the last survivor of this now extinct race was ruthlessly slaughtered by a Mistassini Indian, who, accompanied by his wife and family, was descending them on his way to the St. Lawrence to hunt porpoises. It was about fifty years ago, and the guides pretend to have known some old Indians who saw the Mistassini hunter when he reached Lake St. John. To them he boasted that he had killed the river man. "I shot him in the back with a slug from my rifle," he said, "while he was swimming down the rapids, and he turned a number of somersaults and disappeared." The Indians were horror-stricken, and told him that he had committed a dreadful deed, and that something awful was sure to happen him. "I don't care," was the answer of this bold, bad man. "I would do it again. I would kill the devil if I was to meet him." But tradition says that the Indians warned him truly, and that in descending the heavy rapids of the discharge of Lake St. John his canoe was overturned, both himself and his family were drowned, and the murder of the "river-man" was avenged.

SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.

The Ashuapmouchouan river was left at the mouth of the Shigobiche, one of its tributaries, which was ascended as far as Lake Shigobiche, a fine body of water 30 miles long. Fine trout fishing was had in the Shigobiche river, and along its banks, and in good part of the country surrounding the lake the richest soil was found, yielding wild grass waist high. Any number of fresh bear tracks were seen, showing this country to be a perfect hunter's paradise. The scenery about Lake Shigobiche is most beautiful. The water is studded with islands, and Mount Shigobiche, upon the borders of the lake, rises abruptly to a height of 600 feet. On an island in one of the lake's picturesque bays was discovered an old Indian cemetery, marked by many mounds, beautifully located in a birch grove. Mr. Stuart wanted to camp there, but the guides refused, being afraid to disturb the spirits of the dead. A portage of two miles from the lake brought them into the Riviere de la Cote Croche, which descended to Lake Ashuapmouchouan—the headwaters of the river of that name—which is also a large lake, and surrounded by splendid soil, as is also the Nicaubau river, which they reached by a short portage, and ascended its frightful rapids where they were very nearly swamped, reaching first Little, and then Great Lake Nicaubau. All through this section of the country large numbers of ducks were seen, and splendid sport can be had here in the fall of the year. On a point of land at the entrance of the lake they found some twenty bears' heads stuck upon poles, and smaller numbers of them had been seen similarly treated at various other localities during the journey. Beaver skulls were often,

also, so found, and as in the case of the bears, a piece of tobacco was usually found in their mouths. The honor thus shown the animals of their chase is supposed by the Indian to gratify their spirits. Thus when the spirit of the bear re-visits the scene of his former exploits, and sees the respect which has been shown his head, he is expected to say to himself, "Hello! they have treated me well here," or something of the kind, and in the shape of the living of his species, to continue to frequent the locality. Mr. Stuart pulled out the teeth of one of the skulls to bring home with him, much to the horror of the Indians, who said that such indignity to the bear could not fail to have an injurious effect upon the fortunes of those who hunted over these grounds.

THE GREAT INLAND SEA.

Various small portages and short canoe routes, known only to the Indians, brought the party to the height of land, in the neighborhood of which beaver were exceedingly plentiful that the paddling of the canoe was constantly interrupted by their villages and dams. Considerable swampy ground was found here, and immense quantities of partridges. Lovers of the gun will be able to enjoy magnificent sport here in the shooting season. On the 14th July they reached Lake Obatogoman, where ducks were plentiful, as well as partridges, and so were beaver, otter, and bear. Whitefish were plentiful in most of the waters beyond the height of land, trout were found in most of the smaller streams en route, and pike and dore abound everywhere. Obatogoman is a very large lake, but nobody knows its size, for it has never been explored. Some of the lakes intervening between it and Lake Mistassini appear on none of the maps. One of them is at least 35 miles long, and to all of them resort very large quantities of ducks. Mistassini was reached on the 19th July—a great inland sea of over a hundred miles in length. Near its southern point is a post of the Hudson Bay Company, consisting of three or four small log buildings, the only human habitation on or near the great lake. The residents of the post draw all their supplies from James Bay, and the factor, Mr. Miller, had gone for them when Mr. Stuart visited the post. They had run so short of provisions there that flour had not been seen at the post since spring, the only food supply there being carp and suckers. Mr. Stuart gave them some flour and canned meats, which they gratefully accepted. Splendid-looking potatoes and other vegetables were growing in a garden at the post, but could not be used till September. The soil is excellent. Some of the residents of the post, including Miss Miller, daughter of the agent, a very bright young woman, have never visited civilization, and never even seen a cow.

A RAPID RETURN.

The trip from Lake St. John to Mistassini had occupied over three weeks. The return was made within a week. Often nearly a hundred miles a day were made in running down the heavy rapids which had been poled up with such difficulty. But the high rate of speed at which the rapid current carried down the canoes added materially to the perils of the descent. Several narrow escapes were experienced on the way, and one canoe was swamped and sunk, and with it was lost a quantity of provisions. So short of supplies did the party become that for a day or two before regaining civilization they had to depend upon the ducks and partridges which they were compelled to kill out of season, and upon the ouananiche and other fish, which they caught in great profusion. The return, too, for the first two-thirds of the way after leaving Mistassini, was by a different and more direct route than they were able to take in ascending, and they early entered the River Chef, a large, long, and rapid tributary of the Ashuapmouchouan. On this route they portaged a number of very beautiful falls, found numerous signs of beaver and bear, passed large quantities of excellent soil upon both sides of the height of land, and saw innumerable quantities of ducks upon all the waters through which they passed. Mr. Stuart has brought back with him a splendid collection of pictures illustrative of what he had seen upon his trip, which possesses special interest from the risk which attended it, the large amount of splendid land found upon it, and the immense facilities of the country travelled as a resort for sportsmen ready to undergo some difficulties and run some risks to obtain successful hunting and fishing where scarcely any white man has had it before him.

RUB THE OTHER EYE.

Advice of an Engineer Regarding the Removal of Cinders

Nine persons out of every ten with a cinder or any foreign substance in the eye will instantly begin to rub the eye with one hand while hunting for their handkerchief with the other. They may, and sometimes do, remove the offending cinder, but more frequently they rub until the eye becomes inflamed, bind a handkerchief around the head, and go to bed. This is all wrong. The better way is not to rub the eye with the cinder in it at all, but rub the other eye as vigorously as you like.

A few years since I was riding on the engine of a fast express. The engineer threw open the front window, and I caught a cinder that gave me the most excruciating pain. I began to rub the eye with both hands. "Let your eye alone and rub the other eye" (this from the engineer). I thought he was chaffing me, and worked the harder. "I know, you doctors think you know it all, but if you will let that eye alone and rub the other one, the cinder will be out in two minutes," persisted the engineer. I began to rub the other eye; soon I felt the cinder down near the inner canthus, and made ready to take it out. "Let it alone and keep at the well eye," shouted the doctor pro tem. I did so for a minute longer, and looking into a small glass he gave me found the offender on my cheek. Since then I have tried it many times and have advised many others, and have never known it to fail in one instance, unless it was something sharp as a piece of steel or something that cut into the ball and required an operation to remove it.

In mounting a shade on spring roller, place spring end to the left.

A piece of bread, not too fresh, will remove all dirt from shades; never use oils.

A JAPANESE DEMON.

This One Was a Fraud and the Swindler Was Punished.

A most ingenious swindler recently met with punishment at the hands of the Kumamoto police authorities, after having for three months imposed on the credulity of the people, says the Japan Mail. He exhibited what he was pleased to call "the skeleton of a demon," and in connection with this has been convicted of a most daring duplicity and sent up for a long term to a place where flesh-and-blood demons are not infrequent occurrence. This Japanese is one Michigami Kotaro, a native of a village in Bingo, his real profession being that of a paper-hanger (*byoguya*). Being dissatisfied with the profits derived from honest trade, he conceived the idea of manufacturing the skeleton of a demon of the good old-fashioned Shutendoji type, believing that he would make a fortune by exhibiting it. In manufacturing the huge skull he used the cranial bones of horses and oxen. These he joined together most deftly by covering them on the inner side with skin taken from the

STOMACH OF AN OX.

Horse teeth inserted the wrong way were placed in the "demon's" mouth, giving the skull a most ferocious expression. Two horns remained to be soldered on, in strict accordance with the received traditions of demons in Japan, and here again the horns of an ox were put into requisition. In order to make the horns look old and well worn he first boiled them in nitric acid and then polished them with tokusa, the equistum or "scouring rush," a plant containing much silica. The spine, ribs, and sundry other bones were made out of those of horses and oxen. To disguise their original color and give them an ancient appearance he besmeared them with a mixture of lime and powdered gallnut; and so particular was he that he even caused a little hair to grow on the skull by covering it with a strip of cat's skin. After completing his exhibit the next thought was to obtain a document guaranteeing its genuineness. To this effect he composed a written paper, taking great care to give it, with the aid of sundry chemicals, the requisite frayed and aged look, after which, by touching it with honey here and there, he caused it to be

GNAWED BY WORMS keeping it for this purpose for several days in a box wherein he had previously placed some bookworms. These thorough preparations being complete, he set out on a swindling tour in February of this year, and earned a substantial sum by exhibiting his handiwork. But fate was lying in wait for him at Kumamoto. The fraud was detected, and the swindling three—the skeleton, the document, and the man—were imprisoned. Yet it was by no means easy to unmask the fellow. Letters were forwarded to the district office in Bingo, where he was registered, and the answer elicited the fact that he was traveling under an alias. Another letter was then despatched to the local authorities of a certain district in the island of Oki, here the showman declared he had unearthed the great find. The reply was in this instance fatal to dishonesty, the whole story being declared an arrant untruth. Confronted with these incontrovertible proofs, the man finally made a clean breast of it, giving a minute description of the manner in which he had made the skeleton.

Telephone vs. Telegraph.

"A good many of the railroads are seriously considering the use of the telephone in place of the telegraph for the transmission of train orders," said a western railroad man. "On the Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, and the New York Central telephones are now in use for this purpose between many of the principal stations, and are found to be a great improvement over the telegraph. The great difficulty that has appeared to have interposed itself against the use of the telephone for sending train orders has been the fact that under such a system there remains no written record of the orders transmitted or received, and railroad employes are not considered infallible enough for the companies to trust to their memories of what they said or what they heard. It has been suggested, however, that such a record can be as easily kept when telephones are used when telegraphic instruments tick out the despatches. The plan is to have the order written out at the place of sending and then have the sender spell out each word, the letters of which are written will be down by the receiver as he hears them at the other end. In other words, the letters of the message will be spoken instead of ticked off, as they are now, by the Morse system. I believe that the use of 'phones by railroads, with such a safeguard as that I have described, will prevent a great many of the errors that now slip into important orders and which cause so much delay as well as a considerable number of accidents."

They Were Jawbreakers.



Toothache: Oh no. He only tried to read aloud the names of a few of the Chinese war ships.

Buffalo has a city hall that cost \$1,350,000. Over 90,000,000 bushels of grain have passed through Buffalo going east in a single season.

HOUSEBOATS ON THE THAMES.

They Are Increasing in Numbers and in Convenience.

To the foreign or casual visitor to the Thames, perhaps the greatest revelation is that of houseboat life, founded on the fleeting glances obtained through the hurried launch journey which is as much a part of a tourist's programme as a visit to the Tower, the British Museum, or any other resort unknown to the ordinary Londoner, says the Pall Mall Gazette. The original idea of the use of a houseboat, that of "roughing it," has long since departed, save in the case of a few wretched craft. Those not thoroughly acquainted with the mysteries of existence on the river have probably little conception of the number of houseboats on the Thames, the accommodation afforded, and the many arrangements made for the provision of every comfort for their occupants. With regard to numbers, on turning to authentic conservancy documents we find that the last list of registered houseboats and tenders contains 153 names of ordinary craft, besides 43 stationary vessels. There is a class comprising boats used more or less for

BUSINESS OR CLUB PURPOSES

such as college barges, craft for the convenience of boat-builders, or for swimming and rowing clubs. These are all subject to a considerably smaller fee than is charged for the simple pleasure boat.

In size houseboats vary greatly, and many owners with fairly good accommodations add to it by the provision of a tender. Of this class are the Lil, which, with her accompanying tender (usually, but not always, devoted to the kitchen and servant's rooms), totals 119 feet 6 inches; the Merri-vale, with 116 feet 6 inches; the Summerholme, 109 feet 5 inches; Grantully Castle, 97 feet; Undine, 95 feet 3 inches; and Caprice, 90 feet. Of boats which dispense with the tender, but are notable for size, may be mentioned the Water Lily, 90 feet 2 inches; Kismet, and St. Helena, 90 feet each; Red Rover, 85 feet; Corinthian, 84 feet 6 inches; Notre Dame, 81 feet; Princess of Wales, 80 feet 5 inches; while boats between sixty and eighty feet are common. Fifty feet is perhaps the most convenient length for a houseboat, and a well-planned craft of this size has excellent accommodation, with five or six bedrooms, large saloon, and kitchen. The saloon, too, is often fitted for conversion into a sleeping apartment in case of the emergencies which often arise during regatta times, when owners of houseboats can always rely on

A LENGTHY VISITOR'S LIST.

Many frequenters of the river think, with reason, that the length of a houseboat should not exceed fifty feet. The present tendency is decidedly toward craft of an inconveniently large size, due principally to the spirit of rivalry which possesses owners now that the original type of houseboat has retired in favour of the floating residence, with its luxurious furniture. The accommodation on one of the large tender boats, such as the Summerholme or Merri-vale, would be much as follows:—Saloon, 20 feet to 25 feet long, by 16 feet or 17 feet; two large and four small bedrooms, with perhaps bathroom and pantry; with kitchen, and rooms for three or four servants, on the tender.

Other boats are constructed with fewer bedrooms, but more saloon accommodation; the Lil has a large saloon and two dining-rooms. Some boats, although not of great length and without tender, make up for the area in having great width. The Rouge et Noir, which is certainly in the first rank, is only 50 feet long, but 25 feet beam renders her very roomy, giving a fine saloon and five large bedrooms.

TAJ MAHAL.

Splendors of the Great White Temple of India.

Four sky-piercing minarets, white as driven snow, stand, one at each corner of the spacious marble platform, to remind the pilgrim that the Taj Mahal is a palace of perpetual prayer. This idea is enforced by the presence of an immense sandstone mosque on either side of the sacred temple of death, and the snowy purity of this crown and flower of Mogul art is emphasized by the ruddy domes and minarets which flank the white terrace on which it stands.

As we approach the great flights of marble steps a nearer view reveals the fact that dome and cupolas, walls and minarets of the Taj Mahal are richly inlaid with an intricate mosaic of precious stones and costly marbles, which, instead of detracting from the general effect of dazzling whiteness, only enhance the almost transparent delicacy of the fairy fabric. Rock crystal and coral, garnet and sapphire, amethyst and turquoise gleam amid agate and cornelian, jasper and lapis lazuli from the many-colored marbles which relieve the back ground of all-pervading white.

Diamonds still glitter round the inaccessible heights of the dome, though many of the most valuable jewels were picked out of their settings by successive conquerors of Agra. The jewelled embroidery of Taj is one of the most exquisite refinements of the art, which, in obedience to Moslem creed, refrains from the exact representation of any natural object, while suggesting with marvelous fidelity every variety of tropical vegetation in a manner which indicates the spirit rather than the form of leaf and flower.

A Good Memory.

Little Ethel—"I wonder why Adam and Eve had such a awful time just because they ate one little apple?" Johnny (reflectively)—"Maybe it was green."

In 1893 3,341 ships passed through the Suez Canal, yielding \$68,000,000 in dues. The canal is only eighty-eight miles long, but it reduced the distance from England to India, by sea, nearly 4,000 miles.

THE HOME.

Housekeeping Tools.

Easy housekeeping is augmented by having sufficient kitchen utensils. The delicious breakfast muffins that we all enjoy so much cannot be made in every house, because there are not always rings. An old-fashioned boiled dinner would be a delightful change in many households, but there is often only one available pot; all the others leak. The first one to need repair was not soldered, and one after another has met a similar fate, until now nearly all the contents of the tin closet are waiting for the arrival of the tinker. This argues bad management. Every leak should be stopped as soon as it appears.

Then, too, be on the lookout for the many helps of time and strength that are now in market. Apple corers, potato peelers and cutting machines are so inexpensive as to make it possible for everybody to have them. Clothes wringers everybody is supposed to have, and yet all housekeepers have not even these.

Asbestos plates, costing a few cents each, are invaluable in toast making. Put the plate next to the red coals, just as you do the stove lid. When it is hot lay two or three slices of bread on it, and go about your work as if bread were not being toasted, only in a few moments return to the fire, turn your bread over and do the other side. Toast made this way is delicious, and besides the time saved, the hand is not reddened nor scorched.

Buy also a scrubbing machine; it is easily worked after the order of a sweeper, and it saves an immense amount of time, as also the back, knees and clothing of whoever has the scrubbing to do.

The Aladdin oven is invaluable, as are also kerosene and oil stoves.

Silver Plate.

Many excellent housewives commit the mistake of rubbing their silver to a premature condition of shabbiness by an overuse of patent polishing powders. But of course there are other powders which may be relied upon. Beware of powders that contain quicksilver, which is said so far to penetrate and render silver brittle that it will even brake with a fall. Whiting properly purified and applied wet is one of the easiest, safest, and certainly the cheapest of all plate powders. Jewelers and silversmiths seldom use anything else for small articles.

The ordinary method of cleaning plate is first to wash it well with soap and warm water; when perfectly dry mix together a little whiting and sweet oil, so as to make a soft paste; then take a piece of flannel, rub it on the plate then rub it with a chamouis and plenty of dry whiting and clean off again, giving a final polish with clean chamouis and a brush. The actual manner in which silversmiths clean their plate and produce the beautiful polish so much admired is by the application of rouge powder. This is applied after the first cleansing has been done by the whiting process. The rouge powder is mixed with water to about the thickness of cream and applied with a piece of leather. This with a little rubbing will produce an admirable polish.

Fumigation With Brimstone.

In order to fumigate a room properly with sulphur, every crack and crevice, even the keyholes, must be filled in, so there will be no chance for the fumes to escape to the other parts of the house. Remember that sulphur is a powerful bleacher and will probably take the color out of the wall paper or of any material left in the room. It will turn gilding black and corrode any metal.

Therefore the room must be stripped of all draperies, curtains and anything with metal trimmings. Plain wood furniture does not seem to be injured in any way by the fumes. Allow two pounds of broken sulphur or brimstone to every thousand cubic feet in the room, and one pound of flowers of sulphur. Put the sulphur in an old tin or iron saucapan, and isolate it from the floor by setting it on two bricks in a pan of ashes or sand. Put the broken sulphur in first, pour the flowers of sulphur over it, add two tablespoonfuls of alcohol, set the whole on fire with a match and leave the room as quickly as possible. Let the room remain tightly closed for thirty-six hours, then open air it.

If the sulphur has all been burned, as it should be, every particle of animal life in the room must have been destroyed. Not fly or even one of the worst pests of a bedroom can survive this treatment.

Window-shades Hints.

In replacing a window shade that has been torn from the roller, use nothing but one-ounce tacks; longer tacks injure the spring.

Always fasten the round hole bracket on the right hand side of the window. Always place roller in brackets with shade rolled up.

To strengthen the spring draw the shade down a few revolutions, remove roller from brackets, roll up shade and replace.

If the spring is too strong, remove roller from brackets with shade rolled up unroll a few turns and replace.

If the shade is tacked on properly will hang towards the window.

To fit a shade to a window with inside shutters, measure inside moulding next to shutters.

To shorten a roller for window with inside shutters, measure from the tip on spring side and allow half inch for roller end; it will then roll freely in the brackets.

Always see that roller is cut true, and that roller end is free from imperfections arising from casting.

To properly wind a spring roller for ordinary length shades, fifteen to sixteen revolutions are sufficient.