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WEIRD ADVENTURES OF MOOSE HUNTING PARTY

One Hunter Fired and Missed Six Times at Moose 100 feet Away. Also, the Moose Answered The Call.

Recently a party of brave hunters from the Camp had a round of amusing, amazing and melodramatic adventures up the Grassie River. The party included Ben Lyons, Art Young, Jack McLean, Fred Sexton, Jack Boyd, and an old-time hunter, who went with the others as a special guide and guard and anchor.

One of the first stories told on the return of the party to the Camp was more or less at the expense of Jack Boyd. He was out in the canoe with the old guide when a moose was sighted well within range. Both Jack and the guide thought quickly and at the same time, though unfortunately along slightly different lines. The old guide figured to himself that perhaps Jack might miss the shot at the moose and so it would be best if he (the guide) could get around behind the moose to head the beauty for the water again where Jack could have a second or a seventh shot at him, if necessary. On the other hand Jack was figuring on what a nice, close, clear shot he had. He took careful and deliberate aim and was just about to pull the trigger when—

Well, just at that moment the guide jumped out of the canoe and made for the shore. The result, of course, was that the canoe upset and instead of landing his moose, Jack pitched unexpectedly into the water, where he had to flounder round for several minutes, fervently muttering "Referendum" and "Four Noes" and wondering why people never thought of sending the rivers of water "dry" in this North Country during the hunting season.

Another story from the trip relates to the record as a fine shot made by Fred Sexton. There was a moose just one hundred feet away from him one day, broadside before him, and Fred, fired and missed, fired a second time and missed, and then the moose stopped twitching its ears so as not to allow even this slight movement to interfere with its possibilities as a target. Four more shots were fired by Fred at that motionless moose, and then the moose deliberately walked off absolutely untouched and unhurt except in its pride of race. The rest of the hunting party are unanimous in acclaiming the veritable genius of Fred Sexton as a shot. "Any one of us," each man admits, "could miss a moose like that once or twice, perhaps, but no one of us but knows in his heart of hearts that he could not fire six shots point blank at the beast and miss every time. Only Fred could do a trick like that."

But the best little true story of all is at the expense of the whole party, the old guide included. One night they were plugging up the Grassie when night overtook them and they made their camp on a small island. They passed away the wearisome hours of the night by swapping yarns rather than the gloomy timbers on the shores nearby. When it grew so dark that they could not see the point in each other's stories, Art Young began to explain how he knew how to call moose. "You could call all right," says Ben, "but the moose would only answer Nobody Home." "Well, you just see and hear and be convincec," persisted Art. Then he made weird, haunting moose-like sounds in his throat. For a few moments only the silence answered. But soon there was a crashing and smashing on the nearby shores. The moose were answering the call, answering gladly, answering madly. It was too dark to see the animals with any distinctness, but there was no doubt of their being there. They had rushed with a vengeance indeed to answer the call of what each monstrous moose no doubt took to be his long-sought soul mate, none of them up to that time being personally acquainted with Art Young. As the moose smashed and tore their headlong way to answer the soul-stirring call, the hunting party gave silent but sincere thanks that they were safe on an island where they could not be rushed upon and trampled over by the roused moose that could be neither seen nor shot nor stopped on account of the dense darkness. But the party prayed their thankful prayers too soon. The water between their island and the mainland was not deep as they believed, and soon the moose were splashing through it, fast and furious, in answer to that call of the Young. In a moment they were on the island heading straight for the little party of hunters. One man was so alarmed that he dropped his gun and ran. None of them may have climbed any trees, but yet they were all soon up in the air. The moose soon found that the call had been a spurious one, and back they hastened to the mainland, never to be fooled again until the

next time,—they are just that much like human beings. "We must be more careful," they said in the moose language, "there is a lot of this vamping business going on these days." Then the hunters took Art Young quietly and firmly to one side of the island. "Now, see here," they said to him, "whenever we are having a moose hunting party on an island or anywhere else you will be very, very welcome there, of course, but please, never, never NEVER call again when we are there!"

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