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WOLF DEAD FOR SOME TIME BEFORE STAR'S BOY SAW IT

"Skepticism" of North Again Well Justified by the Facts in the Case.

Recently The Toronto Star has been featuring a silly story about one of the brave romantic "boys" it has a habit of discovering. This particular boy, according to The Star, was attacked by a ferocious wolf and gallantly defended his life with a ski pole, eventually killing the animal by pounding it to death with the pole. North Land people protested against the absurdity of this story which The Star apparently took seriously. Then The Star sneered about the "skepticism" of the people of the North Land. Perhaps The Star has had troubles with its bank recently because there was a special sneer, apparently without either rhyme or reason, for the "bank clerks" of the North.

The "skepticism" of the North Land, however, has been definitely proven in this instance to be nothing more than plain, common sense and knowledge of the possibilities of the case. The Star's "Wolf" story joins its notorious Richter yarn, as may be gathered from the following despatch published in The Toronto Globe and other newspapers:—

"Worthington, Feb. 4.—The story of the epic fight at Turbine with a wolf, in which Toivo Piilonen was figured in the star role, turns out to be quite other than the romantic struggle reported at great length and detail in a Toronto evening newspaper. The true history of the affair comes from W. S. Myhill of this place. According to the account as set forth in the news paper story, the boy was attacked by the wolf, but after a severe struggle succeeded in killing the animal with a ski. "As I am personally acquainted with Toivo Piilonen, the boy mentioned," says Mr. Myhill, "and as I obtained the facts relating to this case before it had received notoriety, and as the actual facts are at absolute variance with the story published, I feel that it is my duty to give you a true version of the affair. "The wolf when found by Piilonen was caught in a No. 2 trap, and had been dead for some time. He skinned the wolf, and took the hide to Sudbury to make affidavit and application for the bounty." Mr. Myhill has written a corrected story to the newspaper which published the romance." The Star neglected to publish the

corrected version of this "Wolf" story. "Our story must be correct," said The Star, "because we have the wolf hide in our window." This simple type of reasoning is after the same style as that of the other Southerner who was narrating a particularly improbable story and who noted the looks of incredulity on the faces of his hearers. "If you don't believe me," he cried loudly and seriously, "I can show you the exact spot in the newspaper where it occurred."

In the case of this ridiculous "wolf" story, however, the people of the North Land do not intend The Star to "get away with it" without exposure and censure. The Star's childish publicity for the boy from the "wilder of Cincinnati" might be passed over with no more serious notice than contemptuous comment for the simplicity of a daily newspaper that allowed itself (yes, begged itself) to be so easily hoaxed. But in the "wolf" story there was more than newspaper judgment at stake. The silly yarn was being used to bolster up the fallacy that wolves have a ferocious habit of attacking human beings. All who know the wolves of the North know they avoid human beings as much as possible and flee from such attacks if flight is at all possible. Much interest has been evidenced in making this natural history fact known. Half a dozen readers of The Advance have taken the trouble to send clippings and letters to this paper to make the matter clear. Among others, one friend in Toronto forwarded here the corrected "wolf" story. Scores of other readers have personally shown their interest in the matter, and there is general satisfaction now that another foolish lie has been nailed by the exposure of this Star "wolf" yarn. One reader calling at this office with a clipping from The Sault Ste. Marie Star made special reference to the high standing of Mr. Myhill in his community, his knowledge of the North and his absolute fairness and reliability. "Why did not The Star check up its story by referring it to such a man?" was the question. The answer is that if The Star referred such matters to reliable people who know, The Star would have few "stories." But The Star would be held in greater respect, if it carried a little less "bunk."

Mr. Frank Murray, station agent at Englehart for the past 10 years, and with the T. & N. O. for 15 years, has been appointed T. & N. O. agent at Cobalt to succeed the late Mr. D. H. Way.

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