

GENERAL PROGRESS MADE IN MINING DURING YEAR

Members of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy have received the following letter from the secretary-treasurer, Geo. C. MacKenzie:

"The year now drawing to its close has witnessed excellent progress in practically every mining camp throughout the country. The frontiers of the industry have been pushed further afield by pack-train, canoe and aeroplane into districts that were regarded as inaccessible a few days ago. True, some of these new fields will not yield immediate results, others may prove abortive but, nevertheless, the advance is general all along the line. There is no stalemate or any indication of standing still.

"A strong undercurrent of optimism throughout the rank and file of the institute is reflected in its increasing growth and stability, and the position of the institute, in any period, is an excellent barometer of the general prosperity of our mining industry."

HALLEYBURY MEN SHOW TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

A touching example of the true Christmas spirit, and the spirit that at one time at least was typical of the North Land, and still holds more or less good in this country—was displayed at Halleybury last week when men about town provided money enough to send a fellow citizen to hospital in Toronto for needed treatment. This gentleman has for over a year suffered from an injury to his knee-cap and has been unable to follow his usual line of work. All possible medical attention was given him at Halleybury, but it was found recently that nothing short of an operation by a specialist would assist him further. Having been out of employment so long on account of his injury, he was not able to finance any further treatment, but the spirit of the North came to his assistance in fine way. In providing the funds so generously for this worthy purpose the Halleybury men assisting named only one condition, "that there shouldn't be any fuss about helping a good fellow running in hard luck for the time." Accordingly, there is no mention of the names of those making the good deed possible, and, indeed, the matter would scarcely have been known at all had not the injured man felt that he should surely thank his kind friends in public way for the prospect given him and his family of the breadwinner being restored to his former health and strength.

Jack Miner Says Either the Deer or the Wolves Must Go

Noted Nature Lover Tells of His Own Experiences, Observations and Study to Prove that it is the Wolves That Are Responsible for the Killing-off of the Deer. This an Article Well Worth Reading.

In enclosing a letter from his father, Mr. Jack Miner, the noted nature lover, Kingsville, Ont., Mr. Manly F. Miner writes as follows:—

"Dear Mr. Editor:—Father has made 43 consecutive trips during fall into Northern Ontario, and he finds that wolves have increased to such an extent that north of Sudbury the deer are practically gone, being killed by the wolves, and the only place where deer are reasonably plentiful is where a district in peopled sufficiently to keep the wolves in check. His suggestion is to raise the bounty on the wolf and at the same time raise the hunter's license to pay the extra bounty. The government cannot do this without the co-operation of the hunter and the public in general; therefore I am sending you this article written by father, asking you to publish same; if too long, publish same in two issues. Isn't it far better for humanity to have the increase of deer in Ontario than to have them eaten up by wolves?"

The Advance is following Mr. Manly Miner's suggestion and herewith publishing part of Mr. Jack Miner's article. The article is too long for one issue, but too valuable to be omitted. Mr. Miner makes it very clear that it is the wolves that are chiefly responsible for the killing-off of the deer. He also urges what The Advance has been advocating for some time past—the increase in the bounty for wolves.

Deer or Wolves
(By Jack Miner)

To the Citizens of Ontario, especially the Sportsmen:—

In the September issue of Rod and Gun appeared an article entitled "Wolves and Deer," written by Mr. Millar, Superintendent of Algonquin Park which, to my notion, is one of the most insulting articles I ever read. I say this chiefly because he calls the rising generation of Ontario sportsmen two-legged wolves and goes on to say that "he will prove it" and to me he proved nothing.

Mr. Millar started his article in the following way:

"Hold on, Sportsmen, hold on! Don't get the buck fever because the pessimists and would be naturalists are portraying dreams that the wolves have killed all the deer in the Province. That is not so. If you would know the truth, it is the 'wolves,' armed with automatic and repeating rifles who are the real exterminators and it is my purpose to prove it."

Now to begin with I say—God forbid that I should compare any human being with a wolf. For who am I? And I ask all aged sportsmen to roll back the pages of our history before we make such accusations.

Personally, the first deer hunting instruction I got was, shoot the doe and the fawn will not leave her. Bless our advancing education, for if a man were to advocate such cold-blooded murder to-day, he would be hissed out of the country. But don't any of you accused wolves worry—see what Mr. Millar says about one man. Yes, I am the very man who says that 90 or 95 per cent. of the deer born in Ontario have been eaten up by wolves. In the same article I also said that my children's children are going to see more deer in Ontario than I have ever seen. And believe me, dear reader, I try not to make any statement without careful consideration and personal knowledge. Moreover, I am not looking for a job, for my home is not for

berated and they became so thick that there were 600 bear killed in Pennsylvania in 1926. Thus, this is absolute proof that bear don't decrease the deer. It is the wolf, because, as I have said, there are no wolves in Pennsylvania and, moreover, I have never heard of any Game Protective officials being so foolish as to try and propagate deer where wolves existed. Remember deer are only native North American sheep and the wolf is the native sheep dog and has the same killing effect on these wild sheep as the domestic sheep dog has on our domestic sheep.

Mr. Millar states that in "1865 in Vermont which was settled one hundred years before Ontario, the deer were gone and deer were imported and liberated and they multiplied in this thickly populated and settled state, that, during the last twenty years, there has been lawfully killed 500 to 4,000 deer." All I have to say is that this is proof to my argument—that it is not humanity reducing the deer so fast, but the wolf, because in Vermont there are no wolves. But this is another joke, taking us back to 1865. Why, bless your dear life, that is the year I was born! Who, in the name of Rip Van Winkle, wants to stand on a runaway sixty-three years to get a shot at a deer? Just wouldn't things get monotonous around that moss-covered stone you were sitting on? Dear readers, please listen to this weighed and careful statement. If the wolves in Ontario could be exterminated this year we could continue our present killing system and in 1938 we could kill 200,000 bucks and never miss them.

At Rondeau Park, Ontario, which has no fence around it—the same as Algonquin Park with no fence—they have eight square miles of second class deer country and the last ten years they have killed an average of 80 deer per year, an overflow of 10 to the square mile per year. If Algonquin Park contains 5,000 square miles, how many deer should it produce? But bear in mind Algonquin Park, at this rate, is not one-sixtieth part of the vast deer grounds of our Ontario. From Ottawa to the Manitoba boundary line the Canadian Pacific Railway gives us over 1,200 miles and from Toronto, the Canadian National Railway gives us 450 miles north to James Bay. Now, who will deny but what we have over 350,000 square miles of wild territory and I know, from personal knowledge, that twenty-five years ago it was partly stocked with deer right from the Quebec boundary

HEALTH OF ROYAL FAMILY HAS BEEN REMARKABLY GOOD

(The Rambler in the Daily Mirror)

The health of the royal family, taken over a number of years, has been remarkably good. Until His Majesty's rather serious illness in 1925, the occasional public engagements had been cancelled public engagements had been negligible. The Queen has been even more fortunate. Looking carefully through the records, I find that Her Majesty was kept indoors for a few days in 1924 with a cold. Further in February of this year she had another cold and stayed away from the opening of Parliament. That is all. Few of us could boast such a record in a climate so trying as ours at this time of year.

A reader of The Advance some time ago was enquiring as to what sort of new pet he could secure so as to be odd and original. He had at one time or another possessed bears, wolves, snakes, owls and whatnot as pets, and he was seeking something original. Perhaps the case of Mrs. Connor, of New Salem, Mass., may interest him. Mrs. Connor, who conducts a large farm, has a pet that is certainly an original type of pet. It is a pet that cat or bobcat. The cat was caught when young by one of Miss Connors' employees, who, with a dog came upon a mother wildcat and five kittens. The mother and four of her offspring climbed into a tree, but the fifth kitten sought safety in another tree. The farmhand captured the latter and brought it home. Miss Connors decided against killing the wildcat, although the species is notorious for its destructiveness and ugly nature. At as it grew to maturity the animal began to show its natural ferocious nature. Now, not even its owner dares come in contact with it and the cat is kept on a chain behind a wire enclosure where it makes furious attempts to attack all who approach it. The cat is fed a fresh chicken each day, as it will not eat meat that has long been killed. When the animal was a small kitten it killed a big turkey gobbler which ventured within the limits of the chain.

This would seem to answer the requirements for an original style of pet, but before having a wildcat as a pet you have to catch your wildcat.

AFTER A COLD BUILD STRENGTH ON Scott's Emulsion

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By this time in my life I had unconsciously become the leader of the Kingsville hunting party, but my ambition for hunting deer and moose had had his satisfaction and now I started out to locate the whereabouts of the caribou. From 1903 to 1910 I started fully two weeks ahead of the rest of our hunting party and during those eight years I hunted at seventeen different dropping-off places along the Canadian Pacific Railway, between Biscotasing and Fort William, but for some reason the caribou were fast disappearing. In every case I saw a sprinkling of deer signs. Therefore, I knew from personal observation that that vast wilderness north and west of Sudbury was partly stocked with deer twenty years ago and ten miles west of Sudbury right to Bisco, deer were in there by the hundreds and their paths in the woods, along which the buck stopped and pawed—yes, and rubbed their horns on the bushes. I saw seventy-two deer in two weeks and any inexperienced hunter could get his two bucks in a week. But the wolves came in and increased by leaps and bounds and ate the deep up alive. Ask any hunter who hunted between Sudbury and Bisco between 1905 and 1910 and they will all say they could take you to the remnants of five or ten deer killed by wolves. Think of the number they would not find!

Another fact I want to present to all thinking humanity. The moose are still there. Now, the little deer are many times harder to approach than the lordly moose. Have these so-called two-legged wolves gone in there with their repeating rifles Mr. Millar speaks of and killed the deer and left these moose with a five foot spread of antlers? No, they have not, but the wolves have. This fact alone should prove to anyone it has been the wolf that reduced the deer, not the hunter.

Now, what happened? Why, this is as plain as A.B.C. The price of furs started soaring in 1904 and kept on going right up. Think of it! Mink that sold for one dollar going up to ten and twenty dollars. Fishers that sold for three or four going to as high as one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Otter from five dollars to fifty dollars. In fact, all fur-bearing animals soared in proportion and the wolf hunters let the wolf go because they could make ten dollars to one hunting furs. In 1916 the beaver season opened. That gave the trappers another good financial lift, beaver selling for as high as fifty dollars each.

In November 1925, two young men shot two large bull moose far back from the railroad. I volunteered to help them pack them and seven of us started at 8 a.m. and did not return until 5.30 p.m. There was a fresh snow. I led the way and I never saw a deer track, but wolves could be heard howling all day. This, remember, twenty years ago was the best deer ground I ever saw.

Mr. Millar tells us "that 10 per cent. of the deer are eaten up by bears." Just wouldn't that make one laugh! The most successful demonstration of bringing back our game we have in America is in the State of Pennsylvania where in 1904 there was practically nothing only the breeding stock. These wise game propagators had liberated and in 1907 they killed 200 bucks, and in 1925 they killed nearly 13,000, and in 1927 they killed over 14,000, and this year, as their flock has increased from 2,500 in 1907 to over 700,000, they are compelled to go in and shoot the does. They have increased to this great number, shooting being allowed each year. But, remember, there are no wolves in Pennsylvania.

These men, knowing bear wouldn't decrease the deer, they wisely liberated the same time as the deer was li-



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