

The Silver Trail to a Happy Hunting Ground.

coming back to camp at night, cold, wet, tired and hungry—and call it sport! Yes, and enjoy every moment of it too. They go into the woods with delicate white hands and soft bodies, and come out again in a fortnight brown, hale, and hearty, able to eat like a horse and work like a Trojan.

It is probable that no country today offers such widely varied opportunity for the pursuit of game both big and small, as does this old Dominion: turf where you will there is good sport for the asking. Still, even excellence has its varying degrees and those who have tried them all turn at last to the silver trail of the Grand Trunk tracks which lead to a happy hunting ground in the Highlands of Ontario, the last wilderness of the East.

The deer hunting season throughout the season resulted most satisfactorily for those who went into it during the open season of 1911 (November 1st, to 15th). It is estimated that over 16,000 deer and 200 moose are killed annually in the fortnight's time. It is in fact, little short of marvellous how the stock of deer keeps pace with the number killed and, yet each year they seem to become more numerous. So happy a condition is accounted for by the shortness of the open season and by the rigorous manner in which the Provincial Government of Ontario enforces its laws and to a great extent checks the wanton slaughter that might easily ensue were hunters to kill at their pleasure; thus saving for Canadian sportsmen at large one of their best heritages.

Yet these restrictions notwithstanding the Canadian Express Company alone carried in 1911 during the season 2,779 deer, shipments whose total weight amounted to 245,476 pounds. All of these carcasses were shipped from points located on one of our great railway systems, the largest number being taken out of the Magnetawan River region, the "Lake of Bays" district, and points on the Northern and

fitte, which infest the woods until about the middle of July. After the 15th, however, flies and mosquitoes disappear and the moose go back into the woods and fatten up. They are therefore not seen so frequently during the month of August, except in the early morning or twilight dusk when they come to drink at the water's edge. During September, which is known as the running season, moose are seen in large numbers throughout the district. The open season is from

this point but can be obtained at Burk's Falls. Parties can find good camping ground along the river or can secure accommodation at Mitchell's Landing. Different run ways can be visited each day and satisfactory results are certain to all who make this region their rendezvous. Five miles east of Scotia Junction, amid the hills of the Upper Magnetawan River, is an unequalled hunting ground. Situated as it is on the edge of Algonquin National Park, the over-

WHEN the summer sun begins to lose its strength, when the days draw in and the air is touched with a sharp tang that hints at coming frosts, then it is that the call of the chase goes out, with its imperative summons to all devotees of this oldest sport, whether they follow the plow or live their lives within the four walls of a city office. In threes and fours they gather as the fever works through their blood to talk of trails that they have followed, to argue the respective merits of guns and ammunition, and to pick the spot for this year's camp.

Only look in at your club at that time and you will see a coterie of veterans listening eagerly to their favorite story teller while the come and go of words familiar to the hunter's ear, such as "big buck," "boule," "Beaver Meadow," "awake," or "look ridge," will convince you that the annual fever is on.

It is not long after that you will find these same men in the woods in attire which has been chosen with greater regard for comfort and good service than for appearance, with a black wind-burnt tan showing through a week old growth of beard, but happy in the all too brief escape from routine existence to a hunting ground of adventure that supplies with a store of vitality and experience to last until the season swings round once more.



Camp of the Shoe-Pack Club, Maskeke Lakes District.



A novel means of transport, Highlands of Ontario.

flow of game from that spacious preserve keeps it constantly stocked with deer, hundreds of which are shipped out every fall. Moose, too, have walked right into the village of Kearney in this district, and every winter groups of otter can be seen at almost any time playing on the ice bay opposite the hotels.

they are less in dread of being hunted or killed, are seen more frequently than in other spots. On every lake and river the red deer is a daily sight, feeding among the lily pads or coming down to the water's edge to drink. Moose, though not as plentiful as the deer, inhabit these forests and are increasing in numbers year by year.

Hunting in the Lake of Bays district is very good. Sport can be had within a few miles of Bayville, where dogs and guides, as well as comfortable hotel accommodation can be obtained. The surroundings abound with good locations for still hunting and the partridge are plentiful. The hunting grounds are easily reached from Bayville for though the woods are very dense, well cleared trails lead to the points of vantage. A small stream runs through the forest three miles east of the village and several deer trails lead to the water, making good runs for deer and partridge. Doves are another favored game from which to start, and the hunting with dogs is said to be very good at Hollow Lake. This last locality is not as accessible as Bayville, but to those who do not mind "roughing it" a bit, and camping out, good results during the season are assured.

Powassan, 207 miles north of Toronto, is another admirable locality for the hunter and very good sport can be enjoyed east of the village. The country is here diversified with rivers and small lakes. Game is plentiful although dogs are necessary

however, are protected and cannot be killed until November, 1912.

The game birds found in the Timagami district are the ruffed grouse, commonly called willow partridge, and the pine grouse, besides geese, duck, and other water fowl. In the northern part of the territory, towards the head of Lady Evelyn Lake, Lady Evelyn River, Sucker Gut, and the east branch of the National River, are found ducks in generous numbers. The varieties embrace the following species, all of which are well represented: Mallard, wood duck, merganser, blue-bill, shell duck, and widgenot. Partridge are to be found in abundance almost anywhere in the forest. Among the Kawartha lakes capital sport may be had with duck, partridge and geese. The open season for shooting ducks is from September 15th to December 15th, inclusive; and for partridge from October 15th to November 15th, inclusive.

And so the silver trail has led the reader to a hunting ground that is happy indeed, because it is practically inexhaustible. There are immense tracts of rocks but well-wooded territory in this northern country, which can never be brought under cultivation, and which, so long as the forests are not denuded, will continue to be the haunt and home of the red deer, the moose, the caribou and all wild life native to the province.

What can be imagined more near to the old Indian concept of paradise; a place where a man and his dog might hunt forever, and where the game would always abound.



A good morning's bag of ruffed grouse - Maskeke Lakes District.

October 15th, to November 15th, inclusive. The caribou, as has been said, is also an inhabitant of this territory. Signs of them are seen everywhere, but, as they are an even more timid and wary animal than the moose, it is correspondingly difficult to see and capture them. When found they are usually in bands or droves of varying size.

The country lying south and east of Smooth Water Lake and north-west of the Wakarusa Lake and river seems to be the best suited to these cautious animals, as it is rough and hilly. The Indian guides who reside in the district, know every nook and corner of it, are the best judges as to where the haunts of game are and can be thoroughly depended on.

To reach the hunting grounds on the Magnetawan River, the objective point is Burk's Falls, 171 miles from Toronto, and thence by steamer. Probably one of the best localities for deer in this region is reached from Mitchell's Landing, a place located a few hundred yards east of Lake Cecilia. Here the hunter commands the old run ways, as the deer cross the river with sight of the landing. On the opposite side of the river there is another run way, which also affords good sport. Canoes are needed at



Result of a week's hunt in the Magnetawan District, Highlands of Ontario.

Throughout this district the chances for the hunter are above the average, run ways being noticeable all along the shore. There are good camping grounds in plenty and supplies are readily obtained. Especially fine sport may be enjoyed a few miles from Ahmic Harbor and good reports are received each season from the Upper Magnetawan. The country is very wild.

and there are good run ways for deer as well as splendid partridge shooting. Deer are reported to be very plentiful in the vicinity of Rosseau, at the head of the lake of the same name, one of the Maskeke Lakes; as also west of Sandridge, at Eagle Lake, 152 miles north of Toronto.

The most numerous of the fur bearers for the observation of wild animals are bear, martin, mink, and for those who desire to shoot with other, fox, beaver and muskrat, which are found in large numbers, and since land country. The otter and beaver,



Some people think it real, downright, genuine hard work; and yet men who never do a stroke of hard labor and who are not accustomed to rise from their cot in the morning, earlier than nine in the morning—and even then in an atmosphere of warmth, and comfort, will get up on a raw, frosty morning and breakfast long before daylight; break the ice on the water to perform their ablutions; paddle down the lake in the chilly dawn beneath stars that still shine brightly; or plunge into the woods, wet with hoar frost and often snow that has fallen during the night, to stand for hours on some "run-way" in any weather; carry canoe and boat over portage,

Ottawa Divisions. No account is taken in the above figures of those killed by settlers, Indians and half-breeds or by those hunters who do not have to express their bag to their homes, while many more that are wounded escape to die or else are killed and eaten in the woods by the 7,000 hunters and their dogs. The big game found in the Timagami region are moose, caribou, and red deer, although these last are not found in great numbers. The moose are plentiful but wary and no small skill is necessary to get one. During the month of June and the early part of July hundreds of these "Monarchs of the Forest" are seen by the canoeists as they are forced on the water by



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