

THE MOOSE AND ITS WAYS ARE INTERESTINGLY DESCRIBED IN A LONDON PUBLICATION

(Douglas Hains, in "Canada" (London.))

When the rutting season comes round again, the young calf follows the cow at a respectful distance, and is becoming a little more independent and better able to take care of itself. A young bull has two small knobs, which do not break through the skin, and they represent the first season's growth of antlers. The frost sets in, and he moves back to the ridges with his mother. About this time several moose gather and form what has already been referred to as a "yard". Usually these "yards" contain five or six animals, including bulls, cows, and calves. Authorities state that moose are not monogamous.

As the snow gets deep, the moose beat down trails to get at their food, and as the food gives out at one place they make their way to another, and so on from time to time. Therefore, quite naturally, by the latter part of the winter these trails become very numerous in a restricted area, which is called a "yard". If undisturbed, they remain in the same "yard" all winter, unless, of course, the food gives out, in which case they move to another point, according to their knowledge of the district. On such excursions they move in single file, each animal stepping in the hoof-prints of its predecessor in such a way as to leave the impression that but a single animal has passed.

Usually, but not invariably, the oldest bull leads, breaking the trail for the others, followed first by the younger bulls, then the cows, with the calves bringing up the rear. When the leader tires, it appears that he simply steps to one side, allowing the others to pass, which is repeated when the next leader tires. In passing some obstacles, such as a windfall, a shelf of rock, or some other impediment, they each get round or over as best they can, falling into line again on the farther side. It is at such points that a hunter can tell how many animals are in the group he is following.

A Dangerous Enemy.

The only time that moose are open to attack from wolves is when they are moving from one "yard" to another. Even then they have the advantage unless the snow be crusted. In loose snow wolves will rarely attack a moose, knowing only too well the power of his knife-edged front hoofs, and the unusual dexterity with which he can use them. If the snow be crusted, however, the moose is helpless, sinking through the crust to his belly, while the wolves run lightly over the surface without breaking through. They have little difficulty in making a kill under such conditions, seeming to act in co-operation—a few snapping and howling at the moose's head, while others only wait for an opportunity to dive in and hamstring it. However, fewer moose are killed annually by wolves than most people imagine.

During the month of February, another wonderful change takes place. The antlers, whose huge spread makes a moose so desirable as a trophy, drops off, usually within a day of each other, although I am told that it is not an uncommon sight for trappers to see a bull moose with but a single horn. It seems that this is wise provision of Nature. The moose do all their fighting during the rutting season, and two or three weeks before this commences their antlers have grown to their full size and are firm and free from velvet. A month or so after the rut, when they have served their usefulness, they are shed. It must not be supposed that the moose is defenceless after the loss of its antlers. Its every-ready fore hoofs offer a better defence to its only winter enemy—the wolf.

Coming of Spring.

When the snow melts thin, and the cows again move down to the water, where they nibble the buds of willow, aspen, alder, and sometimes birch, they seem to lead a solitary existence before again seeking the seclusion of a thicket to drop their young. The cows are still followed by the calves of the previous spring, but now grown to such a size that they would hardly be recognized as the same little tiny, awkward animals of last June. They now weigh between 700 lb. and 800 lb., and, with their sleek, glossy coats and budding antlers, they perhaps look better than at any time during their lives. They have not yet developed fully the ungainly hump over the shoulders, nor has the huge flat nose become as prominent as it will be later.

The cows are reported to resort to all sorts of tricks to lose their yearlings, and sometimes succeed in doing so, but whether this is the usual practice I am not prepared to say. I have several times seen a cow yearling and calf together. If not successfully lost by the mother, they may follow her through most of the second summer, but their baby brothers or sisters, as the case may be, now receive all the attentions bestowed upon them during the previous summer. In this way, being forced to depend upon themselves, they wander, farther and farther away from the cow, gradually getting almost entirely out of touch.

As the cow does not possess antlers, her age is difficult to determine. With the young bull, however, it is different. During the second September the rut again sets in, but the young bull—now a "spikehorn" (so called on account of his antlers consisting of spikes each six inches long)—has not the weight, ability, or spread of antlers to fight for the possession of a mate. At such times he often challenges the older bulls and then seeks safety in flight.

After the second rutting season is over, the young bull finds his way back again to the hardwood ridges, and may yard that winter with his mother.

Becomes Independent.

When the "yard" breaks up in the spring, the young bull sallies forth now entirely dependent upon himself, and, as if making the most of his new freedom, he travels in the most unlikely places. Not long ago a young bull moose calmly trotted down the main street of Mattawa, in Ontario, with every dog in the town barking at his heels.

As the young bull is now independent, his life may be traced much more rapidly. His "spike" horns are dropped towards the end of March, and begin to grow again at the end of April. Fall finds him nearly as big as any adult moose, but the owner of a pair of horns with a beam eight or ten inches long, each ending in a fork. He is now called a "crotch horn". Whether he finds a mate during this rut is somewhat difficult to determine. Certainly, he is no match for an adult bull, and I imagine his mating is more or less contingent upon opportunity.

His crotch horns are dropped a couple of weeks earlier than his spike horns were, and the next rutting season finds him with a pair of antlers of which he appears to be proud. They consist of a slightly larger beam than his crotch horns had, but now, instead of forks, there is a small palm with three points. This time he does find a mate and so passes into the adult stage.

When four years old (his fifth fall), his horns resemble in shape, but not in size, those of a fully developed moose. After the third year, the age of a moose can only be approximately estimated by its antlers.

The Antlers at Their Best.

At the age of seven years the antlers have reached their fullest development, and the moose is in its prime. These horns have been known to grow to an enormous size. The record Canadian head was shot by Mr. Lewis M. Gibb, of New York, near Mattawa. It has a spread of 74 inches. The world's largest head, when first shot, measured 84 inches, but has since shrunk to 77. It is on view at the Field Museum, Chicago. At this age the moose is very wary, and when resting will usually face down-wind, relying on its sense of smell—which is unusually acute—to warn it of the approach of danger from an up-wind direction, while it can observe the approach of anything coming up-wind.

When resting it has a trick of circling down-wind and back to where it can guard its own track, and in this way prevents surprise through being followed. Hunters overcome this difficulty by following the trail until

N ALDERMAN WHO SET EM UP LOST SEAT

Montreal, Oct. 31—A successful action was taken to unseat Alderman Thomas Edmond Tremblay, of the town of Laval des Rapides, who had been declared elected by a majority of three votes, in the Supreme Court today. The plaintiff stated that liquor had been served to electors to influence their votes. A general denial was made of the charges, but was not accepted by the court.

Evidence showed, the judge said, that on the evening of election day, a party of friends of the successful candidate were gathered in his home and were served alcoholic liquors.

The affair happened after the closing of the polls, His Lordship commented, and made no actual difference to the legality of the election proceedings, but he was of the opinion that the law forbidding the supplying of liquor to electors must be construed as being in force "for election day," the entire day, and not only to the time of the closing of the polls.

DEEP DAYS

And now are come the deep, deep days that ache
With beauty; when the blue barrel
Of water and sky
Is shaken with echoings and sails
slip by
With fans of foam; the days when
mad trees flake
In a golden ailment, bold, for the
wooden rake.
When apples thud to the grass and
the sapphire fly
Inebriate goes dizzily over to try
The neighbor's pears. Days when
the salt winds slake
The quick nights with coolness and
set a star
At every turn to guide the prowler
after
Loveliness along thick lanes and
over
Sudden stones; days that bring
nights of the laughter
Of waves of the dark sea like a
dark lover;
Deep days, days where no endings
are.
—RUTH LANGLAND HOLBERG
in New York Sun.

LAMENT

My wife is fond of company
And feeds them with a vain
But when she's all alone with me
The fare is mighty slim!

He was a loyal little fellow and
he wouldn't let anything said against
his parents go unchallenged. One
Sunday afternoon a boy friend said:
"Listen to your father snoring."
"Dad isn't snoring" was the indignant
reply. "He's dreaming about a
dog an' that's the dog growlin'."

Vivian—Their apartment is very
small.
Mae—Yes?
Vivian—Yes, so small they use
condensed milk.

signs tell them they are close to the
moose, and then they sweep in a wide
semi-circle down wind, and if they
come upon the trail again they make
another semicircle. If not, they know
that the moose is somewhere within
the last loop, and accordingly approach
with due caution.

After the age of seven years the
horns do not develop further, but remain
unchanged for a few years, and
then become more stunted, dwarfed,
and otherwise imperfect. I have seen
a very large bull moose with a beam
about three and a half inches in diameter,
and a short, shovel-shaped
thick palm with few points. The wisdom
of Nature can again be seen in this.
As the horns are largely used to fight
for the possession of a mate, the
bulls which are prime naturally
mate the most often, and undeveloped
bulls with immature antlers and the
old bulls with imperfect or stunted
ones will have to give place to the
adult for seven years, which carries
a span of six feet, bristling with
spearlike points, and this is in accordance
with Nature's law.

At the age of 18 to 19 (barring accidents
or disease), the interesting life history
of the moose is brought to a close
by death. It is seldom, indeed, that
they reach the age of 20 years.

Home made Candy

Treat the folks this Easter-time to candy of your own make! None tastes so delicious, none so perfectly satisfies, none so pure and good for all as the candy you make in your own kitchen. Use Borden's St. Charles when the recipe calls for milk—its creamy richness improves the flavor, adds to the food value of all candy. Here are a few tested recipes made with Borden's St. Charles—try them—they will delight you—

Three Layer Candy

PECAN FUDGE
2 cups granulated sugar
1 tablespoon butter
pinch soda
¼ cup pecans (broken)
1 cup Borden's St. Charles Milk
1 teaspoonful vanilla
1 tablespoon corn syrup

Place sugar, milk, syrup, butter and soda on stove. Boil until it forms soft ball when tested in cold water. Remove, whip, add flavor and nuts. When creamy pour in buttered pan.

Butter Fondant

4 cups granulated sugar
1 cup corn syrup
¼ teaspoon salt
1 tall tin Borden's St. Charles Milk
¼ lb. butter
Mix sugar, milk, syrup and butter. Add salt. Place over slow flame, stir constantly and boil until it forms a soft ball when tested in ice cold water or 238 degrees with candy thermometer. Remove and pour on to a platter which has been slightly sprinkled with cold water. When cool to blood heat, beat with wooden ladle until the whole becomes creamy and firm.

Cream Peppermint Drops

½ cup Borden's St. Charles Milk
3½ tablespoonfuls water
2 cups granulated sugar
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
2 drops oil of peppermint.
Combine the first three ingredients in a saucepan and boil gently without stirring until a soft ball will form when a little is tried in cold water. Cool till tepid, then flavor, beat till creamy and quickly drop on oiled pans in small rounds from the tip of a teaspoon.

Send for free recipe book to
The Borden Co. Limited
MONTREAL



Borden's
ST. CHARLES
MILK

JOB PRINTING

All Work Guaranteed Finest Quality and Artistic Workmanship
The Largest Plant in the City

We Aim To Satisfy The Most Exacting Customer

LETTER HEADS
PROGRAMMES ENVELOPES CIRCULARS
BILL HEADS WEDDING INVITATIONS
REPORTS POSTERS CARDS BOOKS
BUTTER WRAPPERS HONEY LABELS
LEGAL FORMS AUCTION SALE HANGERS
and all other JOB PRINTING WORK

Come in and see our samples of any of the above
Orders by Mail Promptly Attended to

No Job too large or too small to receive our immediate attention

Mail Printing Co.
FREDERICTON, N. B.