

THE MUSKRAT'S HOME.

A Wonderful Representation of Busy Animal's Energy and Foresight—Greatest Enemies Are Human.

It is closely bordering on meanness to molest a muskrat's house in winter. The irregular heaps of frozen roots and aquatic vegetation represent so much busy energy in the moonlight nights of summer and such careful preparation for the coming season of imprisoning ice. There are some who cut and pick and dig into these comfortable habitations, and set traps in the water to catch and drown the little colonists who come to repair the threatening damage. Some even creep silently to the sunny side, where the white frost shows the thawing warmth of life within, to drive a long spear through the softened wall into the little ice-lined home. Then there is the splashing of the startled inmates into the water, and perhaps the struggling of an impaled victim, who betrays his calamity and is dug out to his death. If legislation is ever justified or if official authority is ever warranted in obtruding beyond the electric lights and granolithic pavements, it is in dealing with the assassins of muskrats in their homes, says The Toronto Globe. But the muskrats do not mind an occasional visit from their friends, even when the thermometer draws near to zero; for their friends are always careful to close the door with dampened lumps of frozen vegetation and cover all with a thick coating of snow, that the wall may solidly congeal again and prevent the freezing of the open water that covers the floor. If the chinks are left open the floor of water will freeze, and when the muskrat comes along his muddy conduit with his lunch in his mouth, and ready to rise above the surface in his house, he bumps his nose against the ice and is forced to pursue a suffocating search for a house with the trap-door unobstructed. They are communistic in regard to houses, and a strenuous life under the ice, when many of the more complacent animals are sleeping away the winter, is sufficient to breed a helpful, neighborly spirit.

A muskrat can do almost anything under water except eat. When the ice is thin and clear he is often seen swimming comfortably under it, carrying a mouthful of green, succulent vegetation that trails gracefully on either side. Some say that when exhausted he breathes out a large bubble of air, waits for it to absorb oxygen from the water, and breathes it in again, going on his way refreshed. But he is generally in a leisurely hurry to reach the nearest house and enjoy the meal he has earned. As the ice thickens, his freedom in the shallow water becomes more restricted, and he seeks relief by burrowing and tunneling in the mud or sand. When the ice about this house freezes to the bottom he is not in the least inconvenienced, for a labyrinth of tunnels enables him to visit all his neighbors and reach the weedy pastures where his food is growing. In this connection he has gained a wide reputation as a weather prophet, and scarcely a fall passes without some serious faced messenger of evil announcing that the muskrats are building in ten feet of water. At such a depth it is safe to conclude that nature has assisted with a convenient mound, tree-trunk, or other foundation.

The muskrat makes provision for the coming winter without being either sordid or offensively industrious. He builds houses, but it is in a leisurely way, as if the work were its own reward. And when one is finished he does not stay to assert his proprietorship, but goes elsewhere and builds again. He does not store up food, thus showing a wise appreciation of the necessity of trusting some things to Providence. When winter visitors are digging through the masses of frozen vegetation many clam shells are turned out, showing where he rested at his work to enjoy a dainty luxury. They bring back, in fancy, the warm moonlit nights, when he worked and feasted by turns on his half-finished house, or swam steadily across the open, marshy lagoons, with widening trails of glittering ripples quivering away into the impenetrable shadows all about him. Now the interior of his house is a low, ice-lined dome, with a floor of open water leading down into ramified burrows. In a house recently visited in Ashbridge's Bay the water was crowded with living mud-minnows, and the stains on the icy walls gave a suspicious proof that the occupants had indulged in a fish diet. The muskrat has an accommodating nature and may degenerate into the civilized life of a sewer-rat. But so long as he adheres to the trying ideal of living his own life and minding his own business he should have at least an absolute immunity from eviction while the ice is on the marsh.

THE REAL YUKON.

As Peaceful as Rural Ontario—Pictures of Life in the Territory.

The Yukon Territory, so picturesque and so productive of copy for the illustrated journals a few years ago, has settled down into a quiet, humdrum existence as peaceful and uneventful as that of rural Ontario. Here are some items to prove this statement culled from a recent issue of The Dawson News:

The Popular Billy Stone.

Adams Hill, Jan. 25.—The bachelor home of Billy Stone is a model of neatness and completeness, and admired by all lady visitors, and on

Sunday he was chosen as guide and escort by two of the most popular members of the Ladies' Aid Society, while selling tickets for the Caskey-Lorne concert.

Prohibition for Tyrrell.

When William Tyrrell started drinking hot whiskies for a cold last night he took a course that led without a swerve to the dock in the Dawson Police Court. Before he had finished with the cough cure he succeeded in getting placed against him two aggravating charges. In the first he is accused of assaulting his wife. The other is an information charging an infraction of the law governing the actions of interdicted persons, of whom Tyrrell is one.

In speaking of his drinking, Tyrrell said he did not know that the law prevented an interdicted man from drinking in his own home and had entirely misunderstood it. The Judge made him fully aware of the strictures of the ordinance, and concluded by telling Tyrrell that the intent of the ordinance was to get liquor entirely out of the system of the interdicted.

"The law," His Lordship said, "is the only gold cure we have in this country."

Against the Government.

Dominion Creek, Feb. 2.—The committee appointed to draft the constitution for the Conservative Association of Dominion Creek has called a meeting for the adoption of the constitution and the election of officers, to which all opponents of the present administration are invited.

A Budding Monopolist.

Rampart, Dec. 25.—Sam Heeter has received nearly 200 cords of fine dry cordwood, which he is selling at \$7 per cord. Heeter's enterprise has practically given him control of the wood market in Rampart.

Nicola, the old medicine man of the Rampart tribe, is lying seriously ill at the village, with his second seizure of paralysis.

Harry Gordon, an old-timer of Caribou, and who is now hunting up the Klondike, has killed seven moose, which are being sold on the creeks at 22 cents per pound.

Gold Run, Sulphur and Granville will have money order services added to their postoffices by June 1, 1904. Advice to this effect were received by Postmaster Hartman from the Postmaster-General at Ottawa yesterday.

The Wolf's Long Howl.

Wolves on Twelve-mile and Fifteen-mile Creeks this winter abound as never before. A hunter named Williams recently went from the roadhouse for a trip up Fifteen-mile Creek. He had a fine team of six dogs. When he returned a week later he was "mushing" his own sled, and reported the wolves had killed and eaten his entire team.

Two days ago R. J. Thaine returned from a tour of Twelve-mile Creek. He confirmed the report of previous hunters that game, such as moose, are exceedingly scarce this season, and adds to the available information as to the cause. A number of moose were seen on the trip, and in each and every case the poor beast was being tagged and hounded by from six to a dozen wolves. The smallest pack of wolves thus seen chasing the moose to its death was the half dozen. In several instances the moose was seen to have been without sleep or a moment's rest for days, and was nearing the time when it would drop exhausted, affording an easy prey for the fierce forest rovers.

Big Day for Gold Bottom.

Messrs. Lithgow, Temple and Burns will start for Whitehorse Saturday. They will overtake Governor Congdon at Gold Bottom, where he will lecture Friday night before the Gold Bottom Debating Society on the judiciary of Canada.

Pringle's Merry Christmas.

Rev. John Pringle returned to-day from the Whitehorse placer district. He has been away from Dawson several weeks, and in the meantime has traveled something more than 1,000 miles. While in the Whitehorse district Mr. Pringle met Richard Fullerton, an Australian miner. These men located discovery on a creek hitherto unknown, which they named Christmas Creek. It empties into Pluhne Lake on the east side, towards the southern end, and is about eight miles in length.

Fullerton and Pringle washed two pans of gravel from the bed of the creek, which yielded colors, about eight to each pan, some of which could be picked up between the thumb and finger.

Not Much Difference.

Michael Davitt, during his recent visit to America, talked one day to a reporter about the cheerfulness of the Irish character.

"The very poorest among us don't despond," he said. "No man's condition is so wretched but he can crack a joke about it."

"There was a poor, old peat-cutter one day whom the parish priest invited to his house to dinner."

"Come in, Pat," he said. "It isn't much of a dinner—only beef, and beer, and potatoes—but, indeed, you're very welcome to it."

"Sure, your reverence," said the old fellow, his eyes twinkling, "I'd have you make no apologies about the dinner. It's the same as I'd be gettin' at home, barrin' the beef and beer."

Deaths from starvation in Great Britain have fallen from eighteen to twelve per million in the last thirty years.

CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher

The Kind You Have Always Bought

In Use For Over 30 Years.

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 77 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

TELEGRAPHS

Flash Like Lightning

- EDDY'S -

Single stick "TELEGRAPH" Matches flash all over Canada.

Ask any Grocer for a 12 CENT 4 GROSS CARTON. Cheaper and next best to "HEADLIGHTS."

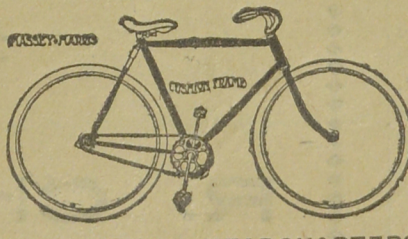
Wheel Talk

HAS'NT it been your experience that a cheap wheel costs more in the end than a good one?

A wheel to wear well and give satisfactory service must be built right, and of the right material. The

MASSEY-HARRIS CUSHION FRAME BICYCLE

Is manufactured of tested steel by automatic machinery. The new Hygienic Cushion Frame is the latest thing in bicycledom—It makes all roads smooth roads. Write for the Silver Ribbon booklet.



THE Canada Cycle & Motor Co., LIMITED

Head Office and Factory, Toronto Junction

CANADIAN HEADQUARTERS FOR AUTOMOBILES.

McMURRAY & CO., Agents, Fredericton, N. B.

How do You Feel This Spring?

Are you wanting a tonic? Try our

Giant Sarsaparilla

The greatest blood purifier and Spring Medicine for enervating and lassitude.

Alonzo Staples

York Street Drug Store.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after Sunday, June 12th, 1904, trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), as follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton	6.25
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton	7.50
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	11.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.5
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.10
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	17.30
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.15
No. 1 Express from Halifax	19.15
No. 81 Express from Moncton (Sunday only)	1.35

All trains are run by Atlantic Standard Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight. Moncton, June 9, 1904.

W. J. IRVINE, D.D.S.

(And Special Practitioner's Certificate from Chicago College of Dental Surgery.)

Artificial Teeth

Inserted in Gold, Aluminum and ordinary Rubber Plates.

Crown and Bridge Work

Executed in Gold and Porcelain after latest and best methods.

Anesthetics.

Local and General applied and administered for Painless Dentistry.

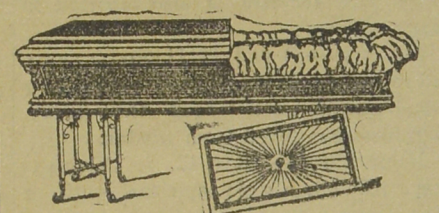
Office: CHESTNUT'S BUILDING, Queen st., opp. City Hall. Tel. 73.

The Point

WE WISH TO

Emphasize

Is buying here insures the actual saving of many dollars.



We pride ourselves on having the nicest and best selected stock in the city. Money is money—the more you save, the more you have for other necessities.

ROBT. B. ADAMS

Maker of low prices.

FOR MEN AND WOMEN.
The Big G for unnatural discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not stricture, prevents Gonorrhea. THE EVANS CHEMICAL CO. EVANSVILLE, IND. U.S.A.
Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for \$1.00, or 3 bottles \$2.75. Circular sent on request.