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WAYS OF THE MOOSE

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOBLEST OF ALL WILD ANIMALS.

The Largest of the Deer Family, Living or Extinct—The Alaskan Bull Moose Have the Greatest Antlers. The Cow and Her Ungainly Calf.

Now and then in wanderings through the mountains and forest one comes upon a gigantic blackish brown deer which by reason of the great length of its yellowish gray legs stands higher than a tall horse. It is clothed in coarse, bristly hair, longest on the neck and shoulders, and it has a rather ugly overhanging nose which distinguishes it at once from all other kinds of deer. From the throat of the male hangs a long hair covered appendage known as the "bell," and in the fall and winter he has also a pair of widespread antlers, very heavy and much flattened or "plumated." He stalks the forest through undergrowth and over fallen trunks like a king of giants, or, if alarmed, he speeds away at an amazingly swift swinging trot and with a crashing which resembles the sound of falling trees. Such is the moose, the largest of all deer, living or extinct.

The moose is chiefly an animal of the northern woods, the southern limit of its range being the head of Green river, Wyoming. It is also found in northern Maine, New Brunswick, southern Canada, Idaho, British Columbia, Alberta, Athabasca, Yukon and Alaska. It is strictly a dweller of the forest, seldom venturing to treeless plains. It lives for the most part by browsing on the leaves, twigs and bark of trees, particularly young trees. In order to reach the tops of tall saplings the moose rears up against them, straddling them with his long legs and literally riding them down. He is fond of birch, hemlock, alder, aspen, willow and maple. He also eats mosses and lichens.

In May the "cow," as the female moose is called, gives birth to a long legged, ungainly, tawny colored calf, to protect which the mother will fight any woodland creature to the death. She has no antlers, but she can use her great sharp hoofs with the skill of a prize fighter and has been known to pound to death a large black bear and fairly trample his body into the ground. The calf stays with its mother for two or three years, or until he wanders off to seek a mate for himself. One day last summer I came suddenly upon a cow moose standing knee deep in a shallow pond, while from beneath her neck her grotesque looking calf peered out at me with eyes wide open, as if with astonishment. I hurried home and returned with a camera, but when I reached the spot they were gone.

Like all American deer, the "bull" moose sheds and renews his antlers every year. They become full grown, hard and sharp about the 1st of October, the beginning of the breeding season. At this time of year the bulls are very savage and not only fight furiously among themselves, but are apt to attack anything or anybody who comes in their way.

The call of the bull is a long drawn bawli with several loud grunts at the end. If there is a cow within hearing she will answer with a low cry, and the bull will come forward to meet her. Hunters often take advantage of this fact and attract the bull by an imitation of the call of the cow, executed on a cone shaped horn made of birch bark. Lying concealed on the bank of a lake or stream, they give out the call, and when the bull comes within range they shoot him. But as this trick is usually played at night and as the bull sometimes never gives any warning of his coming until he is almost on the spot the sport is apt to be dangerous. The bull at such a time is in no mood to be trifled with, and unless the hunter is cool headed and a good shot the moose is not only willing but very able to kill him and a dozen like him if they happen to be on the spot.

Probably the largest moose of which there is reliable record was shot by Carl Runquist, the animal painter, in New Brunswick in 1901. This great beast stood seven feet high at the shoulders, and the length of its head and body together was nine feet seven inches. The Alaskan moose have the largest antlers, and one pair from an animal shot on the Kenai peninsula has a spread of seventy-eight and a half inches and has thirty-four points. With the dry skull to which they are attached these antlers weigh ninety-three and a quarter pounds, a weight which nothing but an animal of gigantic strength could carry at top speed over the roughest ground and through thickly wooded country.

In the winter, when the snow is deep, the moose, sometimes several families together, will gather in a certain section of woodland and be breaking out paths for themselves over a space of perhaps several acres from what is known as a "yard," where, if not disturbed, they may stay for weeks together. But the moose is able to travel well at all seasons, and even in deep snow his long legs enable him to move at a pace which astounds any hunter who tries to run him down on snowshoes.

A wild, free life is the only one on which a moose can live and thrive. In captivity it is much less nervous than most deer and is disposed to be gentle and affectionate. But, as a rule, it will live but a short time, even though it gets the same food which it had in its native woods. It may appear to relish its food, but it will grow to no great size and in a short time will probably die of inflammation of the stomach. This is one of the noblest wild animals in the world, and it should be given adequate protection throughout its range.—Bangor Commercial.

The Bill Was Not in the Senate. One of Senator Frye's scintillations as presiding officer, when the Philippine bill was near its passage in the senate, should not be lost to the world. Such measures, till perfected, are considered in committee of the whole, not in the senate, as the term goes. The distinction is of little popular significance, but of great parliamentary importance.

Senator Bacon, wishing to make a certain motion, was informed that the bill was not in the senate, but in committee of the whole. "Oh, I thought we were in the senate," replied Mr. Bacon. "We are in the senate," Mr. Frye responded, "but the bill is not."—Washington Post.

Henry VIII. and Puddings. Bluff King Hal, otherwise Henry VIII. of England, was exceedingly fond of puddings. At one time he gave a certain Mistress Cornwallis a house in Aldgate for herself and her heirs forever "in reward of fine puddings." In King Henry VIII.'s private accounts occur again and again entries of his rewards to different housewives for bringing him puddings. A typical instance runs thus: "Item. The same day paid to the wife that made the king podings at Hampton corte, vis. viijd." This would be about \$1.75, but its value was much greater when the entry was made. This love for "fine puddings" explains much in the familiar rotund figure of King Hal.

A Matter of Gender. The English language is supposed to be very simple in the matter of genders, but foreigners who triumphantly handle questions of gender of inanimate things in their own languages often have their difficulties with the English. A Frenchman recently came to grief over his English. "I fear I cockroach too much upon your time, madame," he remarked politely to his hostess. "En-croach, monsieur," she smilingly corrected him. He threw up his hands in despair. "Ah, your English genders!" he sighed.

Ambiguous English. "Have you ever tried to explain the various meanings of some of our English verbs to a foreigner?" asked a lady who employs many servants. "My German maid went to the drug store the other day for some headache medicine and returned very much puzzled. "The man say, 'Will you take it or shall I send it?' she reported. 'Eef he to not send it, how can I take it?'"

Just Like a Woman. Ma Twaddles—Tommy, you've been a bad boy today, and I shall tell your father all about it when he comes home. Tommy Twaddles—Aw, that's jest like a woman—can't keep a secret, can you?—Cleveland Leader.

Unbreakable. "Now, yo' looke heah, yo' George, don't yo' fall down an' break dem tigs." "I couldn't break um nohow. Dey is Plymouth Rock aigs, dey is."

It is possible to repeal a law, but not a banana.—Philadelphia Record.

Help others and bless yourself. Drive the cloud from the brow of a friend in distress, and you open the windows for an effulgence of light upon your own heart.—Detroit Free Press.

His Experience. His Friend—Money talks. The Promoter—Yes, but sometimes it's mighty hard to get it to listen.—New York Press.

To tell a man with a cold in his head that colds always attack the weakest spot is adding insult to injury.

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Wheeling, W. V., May 28, 1903. My system was run down and my joints ached and pained me considerably. I had used S. S. S. before and knew what it was, so I purchased a bottle of it and have taken several bottles and the aches and pains are gone, my blood has been cleared and my general health built up. I can testify to it as a blood purifier and tonic. 1533 Market St. JOHN C. STERN.

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