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BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 23, 1912.

TEN CENTS PER WEEK

## BEAVER SEASON TO REMAIN CLOSED

Canadian Animals to Be Protected  
Until Dec. 31, 1915, According  
to Chief Game Warden.

### MAY BE DOOMED TO EXTINCTION

Have Multiplied Rapidly During Past  
Four Years But Are Making  
Their Last Stand.

### FUR STANDARD FOR ALL OTHERS

Has Contributed Greatly to the Up-  
building of The American and  
Canadian Northwest.

#### Special to The Pioneer.

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 23.—Benjamin Lawton, chief game warden for Alberta, today issued instructions to trappers and hunters that the closed season for beaver, protected since 1908, has been extended from December 31, 1912, to December 31, 1915. He reports also that the beaver which had an important part in the romance of the early history of North America, has multiplied rapidly during the last four years, notwithstanding raids by law-breakers. The regular hunters and trappers in the north country, he adds, have not killed game out of season, but have assisted in enforcing the laws.

There are many who believe that the beaver, the standard by which all other furs was rated in western Canada until a few years ago, is doomed to extinction. Evidences of its fast approaching extermination are seen in the decaying stumps, the broken dams and the deserted lodges along the upper waters of the Fraser and Peace rivers, which may be considered the last home of the patient animal, which for more than two centuries, contributed largely to Canada's most substantial advancement and stimulated enterprises and laid the foundation for strong commercial development.

The beaver, scientifically known as *Castor Canadensis*, is the largest of the fur-bearing rodents. Perhaps no animal in the world has been more widely utilized, for as a protection from cold the use of its pelt dates to primitive man. The rarest pelage is pure white, fawn and brown, sprinkled with silvery hair. Less than a score of such pelts have been found in an exportation of 100,000 skins. Black beaver are more abundant. Generally the color ranges from pale yellowish-brown to chestnut. The body measures from twelve inches to three and a half feet in length and the paddle-shaped tail, covered with scale, is from nine to twelve inches in length.

The external features of the beaver are among its chief characteristics, beginning with its wonderful teeth and ending with its perfectly unique tail. The incisor teeth are strong and well developed, and are set in a circular socket. The sharp teeth were used as cutting instruments by the Indians, who also attach much value to white skins, converting them into medicine bags.

The beaver's head resembles that of a rat, though the nose is flatter and makes the head appear shorter and broader. The eyes are dark blue and small in proportion to the size of the animal. They are highly convex, thus enabling the animal to use them under water. The ears are small, quite round, and concealed in the fur and hair. When the pelage is prime, a shaggy, loose growth of long hair covers the head and body to the base of the tail, diminishing on the lips, eyelids, feet and legs.

The anterior feet are so dexterous as to favor comparison with the hands of the monkey. The creature uses them in building the dam and the lodge and for excavating the burrow. They are also used to convey food to the mouth in a truly astonishing manner. Though the front feet are not usually employed in swimming, there is a perceptible web joining the third and fourth digits,

## EXPLOSION IN PREST-O-LITE PLANT KILLS

Plant of Auto Gas Company in  
Merriam Park Totally Destroyed  
Early Sunday Morning.

Watchman Found Dead in Boiler  
Room after Water in Basement  
Was Pumped Out.

Explosion Shattered Windows Within  
Radius of One Mile and Was  
Felt in Both Cities.

#### By United Press.

St. Paul, Dec. 23.—Henry Kohn, watchman, was instantly killed in an explosion which wrecked the plant of the Prest-O-Lite company in the Midway at 5:35 o'clock Sunday morning. Kohn was caught in the boiler room and the body was not recovered until 9:30 after much of the water thrown on the fire had been pumped out of the basement. It was charred almost beyond recognition.

A. F. Oresky, manager of the company, said that he believed the explosion came from the boiler in the basement as the gas the company made would not explode. The shock broke windows for a radius of one mile and was felt five miles away in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The ruins took fire immediately after the explosion and the gas from 400 tanks made a fierce blaze as they took fire when the tanks melted or burst. Windows in the Twin City State bank were broken and the bank was protected by the police as it was feared the vault doors might have been sprung. A conductor said that his car has been raised from its trucks at Front and Rice streets, St. Paul, by the force of the explosion. The St. Paul police received calls at all stations from people awakened by the shock and in each case the person calling thought that the explosion was near his home.

Prest-O-Lite is used for the lighting of automobile. The loss is given as \$75,000.

which does not seem fitted for any apparent purpose, unless it might be to facilitate the handling of mud in the plastering of the lodges or dams.

The powerful hind feet, with the development of web extending to the extreme points, afford the ideal model for aquatic life. The large heel-pad and strong nails enable the animal when on land to stand upright firmly, a position generally assumed when at work. On the second toe there is a most remarkable double claw, or nail, which apparently is only used for combing the fur.

The gait of the beaver is waddling and slow, owing to the shortness of its limbs and to the outward direction which is given to its heels to enable its feet more efficiently to fulfill the function of paddles in swimming. The toes alone of the anterior feet and the surface of the sole in the posterior are applied to the ground in walking.

The awkwardness of its appearance in this action is, moreover, heightened by the clumsiness of its figure and by the difficulty which it seems to experience in dragging after it its cumbersome tail, generally trailing upon the ground, though sometimes is slightly curved upward, and is occasionally moved in a direction from side to side. In the water, however, this member becomes highly useful, useful, both as a paddle and a rudder, to urge it onward and to direct it in its course. A mature beaver weighs from forty to sixty pounds and its life is from fifteen to twenty years.

The animal prefers the northern side of the stream for the advantage of the sun, and, when possible, takes the bank of an island rather than that of the mainland, as it affords greater security from attacks. In this selection, however, its instinct frequently misleads it, as it has been known to build in situations where it has been unable to procure food, and where it has, consequently, perished from starvation.

## LAST APPEAL



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## GETS TWO LICENCES

Young Minneapolis Man Thought the  
Second Married Him and Took  
His "Wife" Home.

### HAS REFUND OF \$2.25 COMING

Minneapolis, Dec. 23.—Surprised to learn from Marriage License Clerk William Hughes that although he possessed two valid marriage licenses to wed Miss Sigurd Anderson, twenty-two years old, for which he had paid the sum of \$4.50, he was nevertheless a single man, Edward T. Miller, twenty-two years old, declared Saturday night that he will have his matrimonial entanglements straightened before Christmas at any cost. He planned to lead his bride to a minister of the gospel Sunday and have the "Comedy of Errors" revamped into "All's Well That Ends Well."

Miller took out the first license Thursday from Clerk William Hughes. Miss Anderson, on being shown the license suggested, it being leap year they go to the courthouse and be married. Together they visited the office of the clerk of the district court again Friday, expecting to have the ceremony performed there. "We want to be married," said Miller to Deputy Clerk Clarence J. Williams. Williams, not knowing of the previous paper, issued them another license, and the couple, supposing that Williams had married them, left the office. Miller rented apartments at 1601 Third avenue S and there he introduced "Mrs. Miller."

In obtaining the first license Miller gave his address as 2710 Tenth street S, and the second time he gave the location of his new home on Third avenue S. This caused some delay when Clerk Hughes noticed the two licenses to the same persons, but Hughes found Miller last night and informed him that one marriage license was enough.

"That's what they tell me," said Miller, "but I am not married yet. I understand we have to see a minister. We will get married tomorrow."

Miller will have a refund of \$2.25 in the nature of a Christmas present to himself, if he calls at the clerk of court's office before then. Clerk of Court Peter S. Nelson said both licenses are valid, but one can be cancelled unless Miller insists upon retaining both. The young couple were Christmas shopping last night.

### PRIZE FOR ATTENDANCE

W. B. MacLachlan has offered a season ticket to the person that attends the rink the most times between now and New Years. Besides this he will have several ladies and gents races each evening for a special attraction. The race Sunday after-

## TWO DAYS TO CHRISTMAS



**BOOM!!!**  
Last Call of Santa Claus!  
Get Your Christmas Things.  
NOW OR NEVER.

noon was won by W. Ward. Mr. MacLachlan will put on a ladies race Christmas and is making plans for a fast race on New Years.

### FORMER MAYOR HERE.

J. C. Parker, former mayor of Bemidji, was in Bemidji today. Mr. Parker is logging west of Baudette landing on the Canadian Northern. Mr. Parker stated that the weather could not be better for logging operations and that he was so busy he would have to eat Christmas dinner in July as he will leave for Baudette tomorrow morning.

### ORGANIZE BASKET BALL TEAM

Several young men of Bemidji have organized a city basket ball team and have begun practice in the gymnasium at the High school. Some good material has been obtained and some fast games are anticipated. Practice is held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. A game will be played in the armory one week from Saturday. Some of the present candidates are Glen Peck, Barney Erickson, Jacobson, Brandon, Al. Neuman, Ripple and Barrigan.

### WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Henry V. Bruchholz, of Minneapolis, was awarded the Minnesota Rhodes scholarship to Oxford late Saturday by a committee composed of six college presidents of the state. The scholarship includes \$1,500 a year for three years to cover the cost of travel to and from England, tuition and expenses at Oxford and cost of travel on the continent during vacations. Mr. Bruchholz graduated from the University in the class of 1911, being a classmate of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dane and Miss Marjorie Knappen, and is at the present time studying law at Harvard University. Two men from Minnesota are sent to Oxford on Rhodes scholarships every three years.

## J. L. GEORGE WINS PRIZE

Guessed Within Seventeen of the  
Number of People Who Entered  
Barker's Store.

### A MALCOLM GIRL TOOK SECOND

James L. George, county auditor, won the guessing contest conducted by E. A. Barker from Dec. 5 to 21 and was awarded a prize of \$15 in merchandise. Mr. George guessed that 7,842 people would enter Barker's store during the sixteen day period and the tally count kept showed 7,825 which made Mr. George's count seventeen high.

The count was kept by P. A. Nelson who used a hand checker and so did nothing else for sixteen days than count the people who came through the front door of the store. Each person who made a purchase of \$1 or over was entitled to a guess and Mr. Barker said this morning that 2,500 guesses had been registered.

Miss Ida Saterlie, of Malcolm, won second prize of \$10 in merchandise as she guessed 7,845 which was twenty high. Adolph Billedeaux won the third prize of \$5 with a guess of 7,848 which was twenty-three high. The following persons each won a prize of \$2 as their guesses were from 30 to 52 out of the way: Mrs. Ed. Currey, Ed. Millet, W. Z. Robinson, Adolph Billedeaux, Gladys Hazen, R. A. Hannah, Frank Lane, J. E. Gillette, Fred Scarrett, and C. M. King, of Melrose, Minnesota.

### PETITION FOR ICE RINK IS NOW BEING CIRCULATED

Several Bemidji young men have started a movement to obtain a public ice rink and are passing around a petition to find out how many Bemidji people are interested. They will probably appear before the council with the list. More interest is shown than was expected, especially by the business men, who believe Bemidji should have a skating rink which would be free to everybody.

They believe that such an attraction will keep the younger boys away from the pool rooms where lately the boys who are not many months over sixteen years of age have been congregating. They believe action should be taken to furnish the boys with a more attractive amusement than that offered by the pool rooms and bowling alleys.

## STATE SENATORS FORM A COMBINE

Sullivan and Duxbury Declare They  
Are Heads of Movement Which  
Hits Burnquist.

### ANXIOUS TO OBLITERATE SMITH

Deny That the State Chairman is  
the Managing Director of the  
Enterprise.

### NAME COMMITTEES ON FLOOR

Would Not Allow Lieutenant Govern-  
or To Select Them—Use Demo-  
crats for Majority.

Minneapolis, Dec. 23.—The good ship "Senate Combine," is on the ways. The launching will take place soon, according to Senators George H. Sullivan of Stillwater, and F. A. Duxbury of Caledonia, who have modestly assumed responsibility for the movement to take from Lieutenant Governor J. A. A. Burnquist the right to name committees of the state senate. In a statement issued at the Saint Paul hotel Saturday night they admitted the general plan of the combine.

The two senators are frank to say that there is a combine, that it includes Republicans and Democrats, and that it has enlisted a majority of the senators already. They were anxious last evening to push themselves to the front, and obliterate all evidence that E. E. Smith, head of the state machine, has been directing operations. They deny that he is managing director of the enterprise. The crew of the "Combine," they declare, has no captain and will have no lsmay on the board. The crew will run things.

Senators Duxbury and Sullivan deny also that patronage figures in this bi-partisan combine, or that it will attempt to control legislation. Passionately and earnestly in their devotion to their new-found principle they explain the reasons for forming the combine and allege that it is based on a progressive principle—what Senator Clapp would call a "fundamental."

"We believe in the responsibility of legislative bodies to the public and to their constituents," says the Sullivan-Duxbury statement, "and we do not believe that they have any right to abdicate their functions or duties as legislators. We believe that the making up or appointment of committees of a legislative body is as much a legislative function as the voting upon bills or any other act which a member of the legislature is called upon to perform."

"In our judgment a member of the legislature has no right to delegate his power to the presiding officer or to anyone else. Feeling this responsibility and feeling that there is but one way to discharge it, we are in favor of the senate selecting its own committees in such manner as it may determine, election preferred, and also in favor of the committees electing their own chairmen."

"So far as the present movement is concerned, it originated during the last regular session. Nothing definite was done at that time, but the matter was discussed pro and con, and again during the special session. But one senator that we have talked with has dissented from our view, though it is fair to say that some who have admitted the correctness of the principle have been unwilling to apply it at this time, because an individual of their political belief happens to have the appointing power."

"No outsider has ever made any suggestion to us or to any other senator that we know of, either for or against this proposition. The suggestion that Governor A. O. Eberhart or Mr. Smith, the chairman of the state committee, have had anything to do with it has no foundation. They have not known anything of it."

"No senator has asked for any committee. No committee has been (Continued on last page).