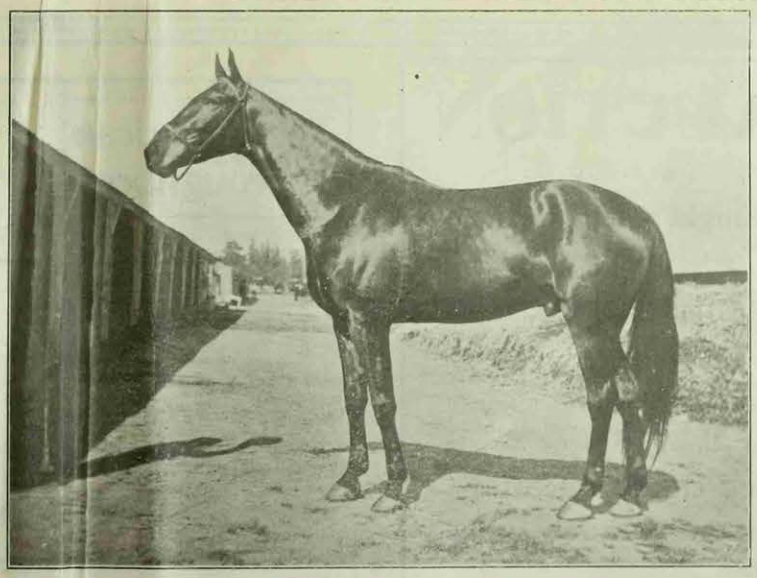
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CONDUCTED BY J. X. DeWITT

BRITISH COLUMBIA A BIG GAME COUNTRY.

The great Northwest offers the finest field for the sportsman today of any country now reached by modern means of transportation. Its hills and valleys shelter the deer, bear, elk, cougar, wolf, porcupine and marmot, while in the mountain fastnesses, far up near the snow-line, may be found the mountain goat, and according to some authorities, an occasional big horn or mountain sheep. Mr. O. E. Garland, a reliable sportsman and big game hunter, and Mr. H. H. Hollingsworth, of Hotham sound, both claim to have seen sheep in the vicinity of Powell lake mountains, and from their description of the animal, it seems that their statements are correct.

Mr. Garland further states that while photographing in the vicinity of Goat mountain, about 4000 feet up, he came across a large ram, which stood and looked at him several minutes at a distance of fifty feet, before moving away. Mr. Hollingsworth also had a like experience.

As for mountain goats, they may be found upon almost any mountain of the Parker range, whose elevation is more than 2,500 feet. They are not shy, and it requires the near proximity of man for days before they seek pastures new.

Up around the snow-line, where the thistle and succulent grasses grow, and where the bald peaks give ample space for basking in the warm rays of the summer sun, is where the male members of the genus Capra—the "Toms" or old patriarchs of the flock may be found.

A good pair of field glasses is almost indispensable in goat hunting. By searching out the game before ascending the mountain, and by studying carefully the most advantageous way to scale the cliffs, much time may be saved. After once seeing game it is almost certain to be successfully stalked. A goat will remain on the same peak for days if not disturbed. They are easily approached and will stand and stare stupidly at the hunter, oftentimes after being shot at four or five times.

An adult male, or "Tom" as they are called, is much larger than a tame goat, often attaining a weight of 300 to 400 pounds and a height of three and one-half to four feet at the shoulders. Their flesh is rank and coarse, and oftentimes very strong. The neck is short and powerfully muscled—much more so proportionately than that of any other ruminant. Its horns are short and curve backwards.

In the female the horns are diminutive and the wool or fur shorter and finer. The fleece is of a silky white in both sexes and is slightly tinged with yellow on the back.

The goat breeds but once a year, though there are exceptions to the rule, and have from one to three kids at a birth. The flesh of the female is much sweeter than that of the male, not possessing the strong hircine scent of the latter, and in many cases is preferable to venison.

Probably the best goat-hunting in the Northwest, close to or adjacent to salt water, is along the Prince of Wales Reach, Princess Royal Reach and Queen's Reach, in British Columbia. Mount Diadem, 6,056 feet in height; Mt. Cambridge, 5,043; Mt. Frederick Wilhelm, 6,144; Mt. Arthur, 5,591; and the Parker range at the head of Hotham sound, from 5,043 to 6,831 feet in height, are favorite feeding grounds for these animals. These mountains are easily accessible to the sportsman with a stout heart and a stouter pair of legs. Water can usually be found near the tops of all of them, and grouse and deer are also to be found in great numbers.

As to the outfit: First and foremost is necessary a good, substantial pair of well-calked shoes. This is a part of the outfit that should be given particular attention. Hungarian or hobnails are worse than useless, as they only slip on the heather and afford no foothold upon the rocks. To know that you can depend upon your foot-gear when negotiating a dangerous place on the rocks is a great source of confidence. Good climbers have frequently had the nerve taken out of them in a critical place by a badly fitting, poorly calked pair of shoes. A sweater is of much more service than a coat. A coat is a useless incumbrance on a camping trip anyway. Count up the times you wear it, and see how easily one can dispense with it.

Therefore, to sum up, the principal requisites in goat-hunting are: good foot-gear, good warm clothing and a good comrade. The rest comes naturally to the sportsman.

Deer also abound in great numbers in the Northwest, and can be found a few hours' drive from Bellingham, Wash., in sufficient numbers to make a good bag an easy matter. The best hunting in the immediate vicinity of that city is to be found on Orcas, Cypress and Guemes islands, but to the sportsman who has the time and the boat, the better way is to cruise up the coast and get the cream of the hunting far from the madding crowd.

Nelson Island, Texada, Jervis inlet and Princess Royal Reach are easily reached by sailboat or launch and offer a nearly virgin field for the sportsman. The deer on the islands are small, weighing about 50 to 80 pounds, and are very plentiful. They feed on the salal berries and bushes through the month of September and are generally in good condition. Toward the latter part of the month they shed off their summer coat of reddish-brown and take on a sleek mouse color. They may be found high up on the mountain side during the day, where they generally lie on some overhanging point, or bed beneath a windfall.

The deer on the mainland may be said to be divided into two classes, viz: the lowland deer, which attain a weight of from 75 to 100 pounds, and are a reddish-brown color; and the mountain deer, which attain a weight of from 150 to 250 pounds. The latter are of a mouse-color, and have much shorter legs and heavier barrel than the lowland deer. Their antlers are much larger and during the time when their horns are in the "velvet" they are much easier found, as they seek the open points and avoid brushy places on account of their horns being so tender.

These horns or antlers are fastened to the frontal bone and, according to some authorities, begin to appear toward the end of March. At that season it is said there is a marked determination of blood to the head, the large veins surrounding the frontal bone becomes temporarily enlarged, and the budding antlers grow with great rapidity, the antlers or horns of an adult stag being produced in about eight to twelve weeks.

At first the horns are soft, and are highly sensitive. A buck will lie for days at this season with his head in the open, dreading even the touch of a bush or twig. The horns at this stage are covered with a fine hairy substance called "velvet," and are full of blood. On attaining their full growth a bony ring is formed at the base of the horn which cuts off the blood supply and the horn hardens, when the velvety covering then begins to disappear. The deer at this period will hasten matters by rubbing its horns against trees and rocks. When the rutting season is over the deer again sheds its horns; a new pair, larger and stronger, growing each spring. It is thought that nature provides these animals with antlers as a means of defense and offense during the love season, when they are used in many a hard-fought battle between rival bucks for the possession of does. They make a terrible weapon, and a full-grown buck can strike an awful blow with them.

How many hunters know what the deep cavities are beneath a deer's eye and their uses? It is called the lachrymal sinus or "tearpit," and has a bad-smelling waxy substance secreted therein, but naturalists have never clearly discovered for what purpose nature intended them

At Pender Harbor a mountain deer was, this season, brought in that weighed 252 pounds. It was killed by a storekeeper of that place, who states that it was the largest of hundreds he had shipped from that place. Mr. Walter Squier, a member of a recent hunting party at Hotham sound also killed a mountain deer which weighed approximately 225 pounds. It required three men to pack him out of the timber.

The wapiti is also found farther back on the mainland of Canada, but it has been driven back so far that it is practically impossible for a cruising party to reach its haunts.

The elk is practically extinct upon the mainland of Canada, but on Vancouver Island, at the north end near Seymour Narrows, are several bands, which are closely guarded by the Canadian authorities. The Provincial Government has also passed a law making it a misdemeanor to kill deer upon Vancouver Island for a certain number of years. So many hunters from this side have made a habit of indiscriminately slaughtering everything they saw on the island that the authorities have passed very stringent laws against non-residents.

A prominent official, connected with the Customs service at Vancouver, in talking over the game situation with visiting sportsmen, remarked: "Come right along boys, we are glad to have you visit us, but don't slaughter the game. Kill what you need; kill what you want, but don't try to exterminate it. There are a few, a very few, I am pleased to say, of the fellows on your side of the line who come up here, shoot at everything they see, and run the balance back so far it keeps anybody else from getting it. Or, if they are fortunate they will kill enough for ten men and take it back home by the boat load. They are the fellows we like to catch. But the average sport who kills only what he can eat and comes for the trip, we like to have 'em."

There is the whole question in a nutshell. Don't make a hog of yourself.

The open season for killing deer on the Canadian side begins September 1st. The license fee for non-residents is $50. The coast is patrolled by game wardens, who closely examine every boat and sportsman they run across. It is against the law to kill a doe at any time on either the island or the mainland, and the bag is limited. It is also illegal to kill the female of a wild goat or to kill a porcupine.

Porcupines are very plentiful and the reason they are protected by law is that they are the only animal whose flesh is good to eat that a man lost in the mountains can kill without a gun. Their flesh tastes somewhat like veal or pork. They live in trees and stumps and are nocturnal in their habits, though they may be found at any hour of the day feeding along old skidroads. They belong to the rodent family and have long hair mixed with their quills, four toes on the front foot and five behind, short flat tail, and when disturbed strike a vicious, sideways blow with the tail, the quills coming off in whatever they strike. They attain a weight of 30 to 40 pounds.

A bear hunt recently in that section is referred to by a writer in the Bellingham Reveille, who says:

"Black bears are also very numerous in most places in the Northwest. To successfully hunt them one needs a good dog, and as they have to be specially trained, it is not often that a bear is killed. They are wary and have a keen scent, making it almost impossible to stalk them. On a recent trip, right in the heart of a bear country, where the hills were crossed and recrossed by bear trails, we failed to see a single bear. One of the party refused to believe the tracks he saw were bear tracks, and said he didn't believe that there was such an animal in the woods. It is hard for a man to believe his eyes, sometimes.

"A Mississippi farmer, who was seeing his first circus, halted in front of the dromedary's cage and surveyed the beast with mouth agape and eyes popping from his head. The band struck up, the main show started, the people flocked into the main tent, and still he stood entranced, watching the immense hump, the crooked, uncouth limbs, the pendulous lip and immense cloven hoofs. Finally, as he turned away, unsatisfied, he muttered: 'Hell, they ain't no such a animile.'

"And so it was with our bear. For days and days we trod teh primrose paths of idle dalliance, waiting and longing for the arrival of the dog-salmon, the harbinger of bruin and his numerous family. But no fish—no bear. We saw much sign, though none was fresh; but still it was bear sign, and with that we had to be satisfied.

"The black bear has forty-two teeth and while its incisors and canines are shaped for a carnivorous diet, its molars are roughened or grooved for the purpose of crushing and grinding vegetable or herbivorous food. It is by choice a vegetarian, and will eat enormous quantities of roots, grass, berries and the succulent stems of the skunk cabbage. They have five toes on each foot and their claws, unlike those of the felines or cat family, are not retractile.

"When the black bear is born it is naked and sightless, and its eyes do not open to the light of day until after a period of four to six weeks has elapsed. They are easily tamed and quite playful.

"In their predatory ramblings bears are not overchoice as to their manner of going, and the luckless hunter who follows a bear trail for an hour or so through devil's club, hemlock thickets and up and down and over and under fallen timber must have the patience of Sisyphus and the muscles of Ajax to come up to his quarry. Although an unwieldly, awkward appearing brute, there is no four-footed animal that can make the time through a Washington jungle that a good healthy black bear can. What he fails to climb over he rides lown; and what he can't ride down he squirms over.

"Both the black bear and grizzly bear may be found in considerable numbers in the Parker range, and at certain seasons of the year, it is said, they come quite low down on the mountains. The black bear is to be found along the creeks during the spawning time of salmon, and on the points and peaks of some low mountain during berry-time.

"The grizzly or silvertip bear is occasionally met with by the hunter after big game, but their scent is so keen and their hearing so good that they generally detect the presence of the hunter and are gone before he sights them. They grow very large, weighing from 600 to 900 pounds.

"It is stated that when young the grizzly bear is able to climb a tree, and many hunters have told of killing them in small trees, but it has never been verified.

"I realize that in making this statement I am liable to run counter to the pen of the highest authority on bears in the land, but I make this statement offhand, as it were, and without a single fact to bear me out. However, I have been told by old trappers and hunters that grizzly cubs climb trees. It may be that, like Mark Twain's buffalo, they just had to climb a tree. At any rate, I stand open for correction. I am not looking for grizzly bears, anyway."

Grouse in several varieties abound in the mountains. The willow or common grouse may be found everywhere on the lowlands, and higher up the blue grouse are in numbers. They are quite large, weighing from five to seven pounds. Up above the snow line the white grouse or ptarmigan may also occasionally be seen, but they are much scarcer than the two previous species.

By throwing his holdings along the Coast into the State preserve for two years, James Irvine of the San Joaquin Ranch, near Los Angeles, has closed practically the only duck-hunting grounds left to the public in this vicinity. Two preserves have been established. No. 1 extends from Laguna Beach to the gun club house, and comprises about 1,300 acres. No. 2 is composed of the entire upper portion of Newport Bay, including all tide lands above Island No. 1, and including the island. This practically puts a quietus on hunting ducks on Newport Bay, a field which has heretofore been open to the public.

Your Stomach is O. K. if you drink Jackson's Napa Soda.