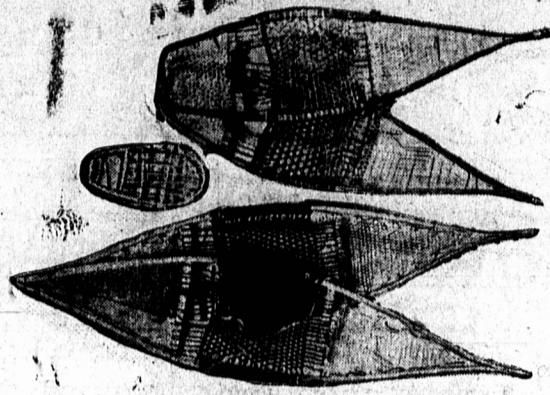


# THE WOLF

## PARIAH OF THE WILDERNESS

**American Sportsmen on Snowshoes, Making a Fad of Shooting This Unpopular and Destructive Animal—Government Estimates Each Wolf on the Average Costs \$4,000 a Year in Property**



Ojibway, Alaskan and Child's Snowshoes Used in Far North



Mrs. A. B. Kent, of Adrian, Mich., Who Has Hunted Wolves, as a Business for Two Winters



A Wolf Hunter's Cabin Near Desbarats, Ontario, Canada, Where Biggest Wolves on Continent Are Taken

but probably it is too exacting for most sportsmen.

### Started the Sport.

New Yorkers started the sport of snowshoeing after wolves. Some four years ago the Canadian Camp Club, a group of sportsmen having property near Desbarats, Ontario, Canada, and of which the noted surgeon and scientist Dr. Robert T. Morris is president, organized a wolf hunt under the leadership of Mr. L. O. Armstrong, a famous sportsman of Montreal. Ten took part in the event, sleeping in tents on the snow when the mercury registered fifty below zero, and bringing back with them three of the largest wolf skins taken in Canada in years.

The men who participated in this hunt voted it a novel and delightful outing, with every comfort thrown in. Not a man had a finger, ear, nose or toe frost bitten and thoroughly convinced that a new fine sport had been added to the list. Several of those who were in this hunt organized later similar wolf hunts, and one man, John A. Hope, of Sowerby, Ontario, has practically made a business of wolf hunting, with and without guests, for the last three winters. Mr. Hope has been very successful at the sport and last season killed, unaided, seven wolves in three weeks.

### Where the Wolves Are

The best places for wolf hunting, for the man of the big Eastern cities will be found either at Nainina, province of Quebec, or the vicinity of Desbarats, or Kipawa, Ontario, or in Algonquin National Park, Ontario. Any of these places will yield its full quota of wolves. Nominally it but a hundred miles north of Montreal, Kipawa and Desbarats are easily accessible by rail and Algonquin Park has all the year round hotel accommodations, which can be used as a base and rendezvous.

Nominally has the picturesque French habitant still to be studied and excellent guides. Desbarats is the home of such famous guides as George Lanklater, for twenty years brigade leader for the Hudson's Bay Company; Donald Bell, "Caribou Jack" McLeod and Harry Spurrway, whose two young daughters have probably killed more game than any other two women in Canada. There is a good outfitting store in Desbarats and the country to the north is full of giant wolves. It was here that the party of which the writer was a member got their big wolf.

Kipawa has excellent outfitting stores, but guides or hunters ought to be secured in advance, since few make the town their winter headquarters.

In Algonquin National Park permits for hunting the wolf would have to be secured from the superintendent, George Bartlett, Algonquin Park station, owing to the strict regulations regarding the carrying of firearms in the park. But the wolves are here in great numbers and the place has many attractions for the winter wolf hunter. The superintendent himself is a devotee of this unusual

### The Right Rig for the Sport

The rig is tremendously important.

Heavy woollen underwear, thick, strong woollen clothing, a dozen pairs of thick woolen socks, with just a trace of real Eskimo or Arctic stuff in addition, will furnish the sportsman who makes the trip with an outfit which will be the envy of his friends for years. Mr. Anthony Fiala, commander of the Fiala-Ziegler Arctic expedition, has been devising equipment for some wealthy New Yorkers who are bound North this winter, and his achievements are worth attention by the prospective wolf hunter. He has invented a sleeping bag of wolfskin, an outer of llama wool which weighs less than five pounds and a suit of the same material which weighs less than two pounds, with a helmet of skin and wool which is both light, warm and adaptable to various uses. This outfit will also be used by Professor H. C. Parker on his forthcoming attack on Mount McKinley.

The smaller calibre rifles are appropriate, with the .25-.38 Savage carbine being preferred. Automatic pistols of .38 calibre are well adapted to the game, and the shotgun of 12 gauge, loaded with buckshot, is also used by some. A compass, heavy hunting knife, field glasses and perhaps a tiny camera are all the traveller will need to carry, in addition to the above, relying upon the local outfitting establishment to furnish a more appropriate outfit than can be bought in New York.

### Famous Hunters Have Tried It.

Among the many well known hunters who have tried the new sport are some who have hunted almost every "varmint" that runs on four legs. Charles H. Deutchman, of Ravestock, B. C., came three thousand miles to hunt the Canadian wolf in midwinter, and said that it beat the pursuit of the grizzly for excitement and interest. He spent one whole night alone on a wolf trail, cutting a V into a big pine tree and backing up against it. But the wolves must have seen him first, for even his skill went unrewarded.

Tom Barrett, of Big Moose, in the Adirondacks, has spent some time in the new sport, in Canadian territory, and votes it far and away more exciting than anything he has tried. Barrett spent last winter at Desbarats for the purpose of hunting wolves.

Lieutenant G. H. Payne, of the United States army, Fort Brady, Mich., is another who has tried the sport. Lieutenant Payne is owner of the famous wolf hunting dog Trim, and essayed to introduce Trim to the sport in Canada. But some of his friends told the Lieutenant of the Texas farmer who was asked by the wolf-dog owner if he had seen the dog. "Well, yes," said the farmer. "They were all running fast, with the dog slightly ahead!" So the Lieutenant's dog was left at home.

Others who have been initiated into the sport and are ready to go again are Charles Wake and Edward B. Brooks, of New York; George V. Fisher, Gloucester, Mass.; G. H. Chapman, Game Warden of Michigan; L. O. Armstrong, Ernest Tremblay, Louis Lafertre, Captain Landault and Forbes Southard, of Montreal; Major J. H. Morrison, Ottawa, and Robert McCreary, Cleveland.

### How the Wolf Is Taken.

There used to be a delightful chapter in books on wolves telling how the poison was put in the meat, then the wolf devoured the meat and died on the spot. To the man who has camped on the wolf's trail it appears that the writers of his boyhood must have been slightly careless in their language. The wolf's carelessness is the finest proof of skilled woodcraft known to the aged trapper. The strychnine capsule must not be touched with human hand, but with carefully greased wooden patties. The meat must not be touched with hands, nor even greased gloves, but with greased sticks. Then the poisoned bait must be carried so as not to become contaminated with human odors, to where the wild creatures will not suspect that men have had anything to do with its placing. The taking of wolves with poison is, indeed, no child's play.

While dogs are employed by the wolf hunter in the Western States the wolf of the Canadian wilds cannot be pursued in winter with such aids. First, because the rigid laws of the Dominion distinctly specify that dogs shall not be used for hunting deer or moose, and fail to state that they can be used for other hunting in winter. Few men would risk taking valuable hunting dogs into the woods with the chance that they might be shot while running deer. The snow of the north is generally too fine and deep to render them of use, and the wolves run in such packs that the dogs would stand little chance for their lives.

Hunting on snowshoes is the chosen, if not the only way of taking wolves with any certainty. A good snowshoer, capable of covering from forty to fifty miles in a day, can "walk down" a pack of wolves when the snow is deep and soft. This is the method advocated by the best authorities. Following that, quiet roaming of the woods at dusk will be most likely to furnish the chance shot at a wolf. But no man ought to make wolf hunting a game of solitaire, unless he is really seeking trouble. While the general opinion among the best posted wolf men of the north is that wolves will not attack a man unless the man is seen to be stumbling, or nearly overcome, instances are not wanting to prove that little encouragement is needed for an attack when the wolves are short of food. The authenticated instances, however, which are constantly arriving from Russia, of attacks upon human beings by wolves do not seem to be duplicated on this continent.

### Hunting at Night.

Startling experiences will come to those who try hunting wolves at night. Moonlight nights are the best for the sport, though any night will give all the sensations one might expect to be crowded with. The wolf, like almost all wild animals which find their habitat encroached upon by man, is fast becoming a nocturnal creature. Many wolves prowled about by day, but more in the night. The little outing will not be found a four o'clock party and ought not to be attempted by any but hardy men. I have participated in one such function and it stands out conspicuously as the most picturesque incident in twenty years of outdoor life.

The little party starts off following its snowshoe "trail breaker" to the known rendezvous of the wolves in the woods. Then it divides into parties of three each, separating each party a half mile. The trip then dig a big hole in the snow with snowshoes, into which they crawl, seated back to back, and pile the snow all over and about them, up to their shoulders, for snow is much warmer than the air at 30 below zero. Resting on the snowshoes near each man's hand is the arsenal of guns with which to welcome the wolves.

Then wait. And if there is any waiting on this earth which ought to be rewarded with it is said to come to all those who wait, it is this sort of waiting. You are a hardened sportsman, indeed, if you hear the wolves howling all about you, even hear them brush against the trees just out of sight, and not feel your hair pushing your hat up just a little bit. This ought to be very successful hunting.

### Wolf in Trap, the Most Difficult Method of Killing Wolves

timber wolves.

The range of the wolf on this continent stretches from Southern Texas to the Arctic Circle. Nature furnishes the creature with protective coloring, for in the dark swamps of Florida the wolf is black; in Texas, among the sandy plains, it is red; in Canada it ranges from black to light gray, and in the snowy wastes of the Arctic it is pure white. And its adaptability to environment is as perfect as its color, for it is as much at home on the plains of the West as in the swamps of the South or the snows of the North. Few wild creatures have so wide a range of habitat.

The size of the timber wolf is somewhat greater in the north than in the south, averaging about four to four and one-half feet in length from tip of nose to tip of tail, and standing about twenty-five inches in height. As an illustration of the unusual size to which the Canadian timber wolf grows, it may be said that the largest of three wolves shot in Ontario by one party of which the writer was a member measured eight feet six inches from tip of nose to tip of tail. This is regarded as one of the biggest wolves taken in Canada in recent years. The skin has been shown at several sportsmen's shows held in this city during the last few years. From fifty to eighty pounds is the average weight of a dog wolf in good condition, but the weight varies much with the season and the food supply.

It is not at all difficult for the student of wolf life to find himself in full agreement with the recent stories, in which that creature is described with all the imaginative license of the novelist. There is little one could not believe of the wolf. There is no depth of meanness, no merciless treachery, or refinement of cruelty, or wonderful keenness of animal sagacity of which a wolf will not avail himself. There is no despicable resource of animal ingenuity which he will not adapt to his ends. Having been hunted by man for centuries with a ferocity born of anger and not out of the need of food, he has learned much of man's ways and how to avoid them.

When the facts of the wild life of this continent come out there will be many to believe that the wolf and not the Indian was the real destroyer of the American bison. The approaching extinction of some of the great antlered creatures of the forests of America can be laid with certainty to the charge of the wolf. No wild creatures roaming the forests and the plains of the world are responsible for such a total destruction, injury and fear as the wolf.

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As between the deaths among wild game wrought by the much abused automatic shotgun or rifle of the sportsman, and those which may be charged to the wolf the animal leads by multiples. One need spend only a few days on snowshoes in the woods of Canada to see with his own eyes the awful havoc. Carcasses of deer, moose, caribou, lie almost untouched.

Things are as bad if not worse in the United States. Michigan is a very nesting ground for the wolf. In some places he has so suffered that the local bounty for the killing of one wolf, added to that paid by the State, makes a total of fifty dollars. Even with this premium she is having a hard time to get the upper hand of these four legged vampires. George Shiras, 3d, of Pittsburg, one of the best known sportsmen in the United States

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### Wolves on the Increase.

It will surprise the uninformed to hear that wolves are on the increase all over North America, and probably in Russia. This is vouched for by the governments of the United States and Canada, and founded on the opinions of cattle men, Indians and trappers.

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Skin to Man's Right Measured Eight Feet Six Inches from Snout to Tail

the best species will become extinct. Some men have already given up the gun for the camera. Others seek only those animals which prey upon man or his possessions.

Here, then, in the wolf is a new, tremendously interesting quarry for the sportsman. Historically famous, or infamous, enemy of man and game, exceedingly difficult of approach, fearless, ferocious, roving, there could hardly be found better qualifications in any object of the hunt.

Now should the joy of the hunter's tale from the deep padded recess of the club chair be forgotten. Few animals are surrounded with so much mysterious fascination as the wolf. Theme of wild, weird stories in childhood, honorably vouched for in the sacred pages of McGuffey's Fifth Reader, constantly mentioned in the day's despatches as having taken another choice morsel in the form of a Russian mail carrier, general emblem of all that is bloodthirsty in beast or man, the wolf is enshrined in the legend and history of the world.

### Coyote Is Not a Wolf.

No mention will be made in this story of the so-called "prairie wolf" or coyote. The timber wolf, or gray wolf, is the theme here. There is little of interest about the coyote. He is the black sheep of the family, the cur dog of the entire race. He is a coward and a degenerate. The racial difference between the real wolf and the cur coyote is well shown in the characteristic method of carrying the tail.

Where the wolf will content himself with nothing but fresh meat killed by himself, the coyote will feast on any sort of carrion, in many cases killing the game

and allowing it to lie untouched until putrefaction sets in. Only the very meaneast of animals are attracted to the graves of human kind, and these graves are the special interest of the coyote. In this respect, as in others, the coyote is entitled to the name of hyena, for such he really is—the hyena of the plains. There is nothing in common between the wolf and the coyote. They are born enemies. And woe betide the coyote upon whose track a wolf once starts in anger! The end can be predicted with absolute certainty. The coward is defeated before the fight.

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