

though that river was able, for one reason or another to escape from the glacial drainage system.

Such was the retreat of the ice-front that often in its initial escape southeastward a flow of meltwater would encounter high ground and glacial lakes formed. Wherever the meltwater, loaded to capacity with material, lost velocity, deposits were laid; here gravel, there sand, another place lake clays and silts. Or even where two streams joined, deposits could form. So that besides the material directly left in sites by the ice we have an intricate pattern of water-laid deposits besides.

Life will not be denied. It invades every inhabitable vacancy. The invasion of the land vacated by the ice would have been fascinating to watch. In spite of the patchwork pattern of soils, each type of deposit has an assemblage of plants suited to the conditions. In some of the great valleys are beautiful lakes and a lush growth. In others, dreary saline flats, resulting from too much local marine bedrock influence, but still with a plant growth.

How, too, did the birds adapt their habits to the newly opened territory? There is evidence that the mammoth was still in existence and invaded the area. An excavation for a dug-out near Maukata about two years ago by a local contractor brought up a mammoth tusk which is now in the possession of Kenneth Jones.

Man himself now enters the picture and leaves his artifacts. With apologies to Goldsmith one can affirm:

*"Yet still, even here, interest can
spread a charm,
Redress the clime, and all its rage
disarm."*

Fisher and Marten

Maurice G. Street, Nipawin

ON December 19th, 1951, J. P. Neufeld, Codette, Sask., and myself were driving in the heavily timbered area some miles north of Grassy Lake Fire Rangers tower (northeast of Love, Sask.) when we chanced to see our first wild Fisher. It had just come from a deep, heavily wooded ravine, and was about to cross the trail to a thick spruce bluff as we rounded a bend. Hearing and seeing us, it made a dash for cover, scrambling up a steep wall of brush

and debris that had been bulldozed off the trail, then quickly disappearing into the heavy timber. It was really a beautiful animal, very large in comparison to ranch-bred Fisher that I had seen. It was probably an old male as its fur was rather brown with a tinge of gray. Fur buyers tell us that the females average much darker and their pelts are much more valuable.

On the hard-packed road it was a thing of grace, but off the trail in the deep snow it appeared rather clumsy, no doubt due to its very short legs.

MOOSE AND MICE

C. Stuart Francis,

Spruce Dale Farm, Torch River

MOOSE are steadily increasing in this area. One neighbor of mine stated he saw seven of these, as well as four Elk, in one day. Only yesterday, February 2nd, another man just a mile north of my farm saw three on his field together. It is indeed heartening to observe how conservation practices can quickly restore our wildlife resources, which at times, mostly due to mismanagement, become completely or almost extinct.

During the last twelve months we have had the opportunity of studying one of our least known members of Saskatchewan mammals, namely, the Boreal Lemming Mouse. During the early spring of last year, my son Stanley discovered one specimen under a decayed body of a dead Goshawk, and on February 1st of this year, Stanley also caught one in a trap set for weasel.

They are quite unusual in appearance: in form, resembling the tiny Shrew mouse. However, this species is about three to four times the size of the tiny shrew. In color this species is of a dark mahogany above, fairly light grey underneath with the division of color from the back to the underneath being divided very clearly by a line of separation. The back fur is very soft and thick; the feet are of a light brown or reddish color and the 1¼ to 1½-inch tail is quite dark. We are sending the latest specimen to Mr. Fred Bard in the hope it will be fit to add to the collection in our Provincial Museum.