

# The Moose

BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT



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**T**HE moose is the giant of all deer; and many hunters esteem it the noblest of American game. Beyond question there are few trophies more prized than the huge shovel horns of this strange dweller in the cold northland forests.

I shot my first moose after making several fruitless hunting trips with this special game in view. The season I finally succeeded it was only after having hunted two or three weeks in vain, among the Bitter Root Mountains, and the ranges lying southeast of them.

I began about the first of September



er. Here after a little wandering he chose a point where there was some thick young growth, which hid him from view when he lay down, though not when he stood. After some turning he settled himself in his bed just as a steer would.

He could not have chosen a spot better suited for us. He was nearly at the edge of the morass, the open space between the spruce clump where he was lying and the rocky foot-hills being comparatively dry and not much over a couple of hundred yards broad; while some sixty yards from it, and between it and the hills, was a little hummock, tufted with firs, so as to afford us just the cover we needed.

Keeping back from the edge of the morass we were able to walk upright through the forest, until we got the point where he was lying in a line with this little hummock. We then dropped on our hands and knees, and crept over the soft, wet sward, where there was nothing to make a noise.

At last we reached the hummock, and I got into position for a shot, taking a final look at my faithful 45-90 Winchester to see that all was in order. Peering cautiously through the shielding evergreens, I at first could not make out where the moose was lying, until my eye was caught by the motion of his big ears, as he occasionally tapped them lazily forward. Even then I could not see his outline; but I knew where he was, and having pushed my rifle forward on the moss, I snapped a dry twig to make him rise. My veins were thrilling and my heart beating with that eager, fierce excitement, known only to the hunter of big game, and forming one of the keenest and strongest of the many pleasures which with him go to make up "the wild joy of living."

As the sound of the snapping twig smote his ears the moose rose nimbly to his feet, with a lightness on which one would not have reckoned in a beast so heavy of body. He stood broadside to me for a moment, his ungainly head slightly turned, while his ears twitched and his nostrils snuffed the air. Drawing a fine bead against his black hide, behind his shoulder and two thirds of his body's depth below his shaggy withers, I pressed the trigger. He neither flinched nor reeled, but started with his regular ground-covering trot through the spruces; yet I knew he was mine, for the light blood sprang from both of his nostrils, and he fell dying on his side before he had gone thirty rods.

Later in the fall I was again hunting among the lofty ranges which continue towards the southeast the chain of the Bitter Root, between Idaho and Montana. There were but two of us, and we were travelling very light, each having but one pack-pony and the saddle animal he bestrode. We were high among the mountains, and followed no regular trail. Hence our course was often one of extreme difficulty. Occasionally, we took our animals through the forest near timber line, where the slopes were not too steep; again we threaded our way through a line of glades, or skirted the foot-hills in an open, park country; and now and then we had to cross stretches of tangled mountain forest, making but a few miles a day, at the cost of incredible toil, and accomplishing even this solely by virtue of the wonderful docility and sure-footedness of the ponies, and of my companion's skill with the axe and thorough knowledge of woodcraft.

Late one cold afternoon we came out in a high alpine valley in which there was no sign of any man's having ever been before us. Down its middle ran a clear brook. On each side was a belt of thick spruce forest, covering the lower flanks of the mountains. The trees came down in points and isolated clumps to the brook, the banks of which were thus bordered with open glades, rendering the travelling easy and rapid.

Soon after starting up this valley we entered a beaver meadow of considerable size. It was covered with lush, rank grass, and the stream wound through it rather sluggishly in long curves, which were fringed by a thick growth of dwarfed willows. In one or two places it broadened into small ponds, bearing a few lily-pads. This meadow had been all tramped up by moose. Trails led hither and thither through the grass, the willow twigs were cropped off, and the muddy banks of the little black ponds were indented by hoof-marks. Evidently most of the lilies had been plucked. The footprints were unmistakable; a moose's foot is longer and slimmer than a caribou's, while on the other hand it is much larger than an elk's and a longer oval in shape.

Most of the sign was old, this high alpine meadow, surrounded by snow mountains, having clearly been a favorite resort for moose in the summer but some enormous, fresh tracks told that one or more old bulls were still frequenting the place.

The light was already fading, and of course, we did not wish to camp where we were, because we would then certainly scare the moose. Accordingly we pushed up the valley for another mile, through an open forest the ground being quite free from un-

derbrush and dead timber, and covered with a carpet of thick moss, in which the feet sank noiselessly. Then we came to another beaver-meadow, which offered fine feed for the ponies. On its edge we hastily pitched camp, just at dusk. We tossed down the packs in a dry grove, close to the brook, and turned the tired ponies loose in the meadow, hobbling the little mare that carried the bell. The ground was smooth. We threw a cross-pole from one to the other of two young spruces, which happened to stand handily, and from it stretched and pegged out a piece of canvas, which we were using as a shelter tent. Beneath this we spread our bedding, laying under it the canvas sheets in which it had been wrapped. There was still bread left over from yesterday's baking, and in a few moments the kettle was boiling, and the frying-pan sizzling, while one of us skinned and cut into suitable pieces two grouse we had knocked over on our march. For fear of frightening the moose we built but a small fire, and went to bed soon after supper, being both tired and cold. Fortunately, what little breeze there was blew up the valley.

At dawn I was awake, and crawled out of my buffalo bag, shivering and yawning. My companion still slumbered heavily. White frost covered whatever had been left outside. The cold was sharp, and I hurriedly slipped a pair of stout moccasins on my feet, drew on my gloves and cap, and started through the ghostly woods for the meadow where we had seen the moose sign. The tufts of grass were stiff with frost; black ice skimmed the edges and quiet places of the little brook.

I walked slowly, it being difficult not to make a noise by cracking sticks or brushing against trees. In the gloom; but the forest was so open that it favored me. When I reached the edge of the beaver-meadow it was light enough to shoot, though the front sight still glimmered indistinctly. Streaks of cold red showed that the sun would rise soon.

Before leaving the shelter of the last spruces I halted to listen; and almost immediately heard a curious splashing sound from the middle of the meadow, where the brook broadened into small willow-bordered pools. I knew at once that a moose was in one of these pools, wading about and pulling up the water-lilies by seizing their slippery stems in his lips, plunging his head deep under water to do so. The moose love to feed in this way in the hot months, when they spend all the time they can in the water, feeding or lying down; nor do they altogether abandon the habit even when the

weather is so cold that icicles form in their shaggy coats. Crouching, I stole noiselessly along the edge of the willow-thicket. The stream twisted through it from side to side in zigzags, so that every few rods I got a glimpse down a lane of black water. In a minute I heard a slight splashing near me; and on passing the next point of bushes, I saw the shadowy outline of the moose's hindquarters, standing in a bend of the water. In a moment he walked onwards, disappearing. I ran forward a couple of rods, and then turned in among the willows, to reach the brook where it again bent back towards me. The splashing in the water, and the rustling of the moose's body against the frozen twigs, drowned the little noise made by my moccasined feet.

I strode out on the bank at the lower end of a long narrow pool of water, dark and half frozen. In this pool, half way down and facing me, but a score of yards off, stood the mighty marsh beast, strange and uncouth in look as some monster surviving over from the Pliocene. His vast bulk loomed black and vague in the dim gray dawn; his huge antlers stood out sharply; columns of steam rose from his nostrils. For several seconds he fronted me motionless; then he began to turn, slowly, and as if he had a stiff neck. When quarter way round I fired into his shoulder; whereat he reared and bounded on the bank with great leap, vanishing in the willows. Through these I heard him crash like a whirlwind for a dozen rods; then down he fell, and when I reached the spot he had ceased to struggle. The ball had gone through his heart.

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For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Temperance Folks Want Davis. Petition requesting Governor Stuart to appoint Harry A. Davis to the existing judicial vacancy in Blair county were circulated in Altoona churches on Sunday. Davis has the indorsement of the Ministerial Association and the county committee of the Anti-Saloon League, and is also supported by the state anti-saloon organization.

The New BUICK IS HERE! Arrange for demonstration. Also second-hand cars for sale and supplies. Wm. W. Keichline & Co. S. Water St., Bellefonte. DELIVERY ATTACHED.

Two Ways of Doing In days ago, a builder dealt with a dozen different supply houses. He bought his brick and stone here, lumber there, glass elsewhere, and nails and bolts round the corner. A building that didn't "jibe" was the usual result, but no one person could be blamed for it or held responsible. In THESE days Mr. Builder does it differently. He makes his plan orders everything from one complete supply house, and when the material comes, IT SUITS. And you are here now, today, with the B. L. Co.—not yesterday with the dozen.

Bellefonte Lumber Co. Superior Screenings for lime burning, Builders' and plasterers' Sand. Telephone Calls: Commercial, No. 132; Central, No. 132.

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AUDITORS' NOTICE. In the matter of the estate of Geo. W. Fortney, late of Harris Township, deceased. The undersigned, an Auditor appointed by the Orphan's Court of Centre County, to make distribution of the balance in the hands of John A. Fortney, Administrator D. B. N. C. T. A. of estate of Geo. W. Fortney, deceased, to and among the parties legally entitled to receive the same, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment on Saturday, Jan. 29th, 1910, at 10 o'clock at the law office of N. H. Spangler in Crider's Exchange, Bellefonte, Pa. when and where all persons having any claim against or to the said estate are required to make and prove their claims or be debarred from coming in upon said fund. D. PAUL FORTNEY, Auditor.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. In the matter of the estate of Ann W. Biddle, late of the township of Patton, deceased. The undersigned, an Auditor appointed by the above Court to make distribution of the funds in the hands of the accountant, the administrator in interest or so many as choose to appear, at the office of Fortney & Fortney, east High street, Bellefonte, Pa. on Thursday, the 27th day of January, 1910, at 10 o'clock A. M., when and where all persons having any claim to any portion of the said estate may appear or be forever debarred from coming in on said fund. D. PAUL FORTNEY, Auditor.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Jacob Shaffer, late of Walker Twp. deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of said deceased, late of Walker Twp. deceased, have been issued to the undersigned. All persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the estate will please present them duly authenticated to the undersigned. J. M. GARRIBER, Executor. Clement Dale, Atty. 25 Zion, Pa.

FARM FOR SALE. 1 1/2 miles west of Julian, containing 230 acres; 150 acres cleared, balance in pastureland, partly timbered; never falling spring water. Large brick barn, with water piped in barn. All the necessary outbuildings in good condition. 35 acres in grain, 30 acres in clover, 60 acres in grasses, 20 acres in cornstalks for oats; good fruit of all kinds. C. M. Myers.

Dr. Sol M. Nissley, Veterinary Surgeon. A graduate of the University of Penna. Office at the Palace Livery stable, Bellefonte. x42

W. H. MUSSER, GENERAL INSURANCE AGENT, Notary Public and Pension Attorney, BELLEFONTE, PENNA.

Centre County Banking Co. Corner High and Spring Streets. Receive Deposits; Discount Notes. John M. Shugert, Cashier.

Beezer's Meat Market HIGH ST., BELLEFONTE, PA. We keep none but the best quality of BEEF, PORK, MUTTON, SLICED HAM. All kinds of Smoked Meat, Pork Sausage, etc. If YOU want a nice Juicy Steak, Call on PHILIP BEEZER

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WE HAVE a number of smart dress models in Regal Shoes. They're bound to win the approval of the best-dressed men in town. And the fit of these Regal dress models is just as neat as their appearance.

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\$3.50 \$4.00 and \$5.00 MINGLE'S SHOE STORE.

A Smart Regal Dress Model

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS. NOTICE. Notice is hereby given to the voters of Benner township, Centre county, Pa., that in pursuance of an order granted by the County of Centre on the 23rd day of December, 1909, an election was authorized to be held in the said township at the next February municipal election, to vote upon the question whether road taxes in said township shall be paid by work upon the roads or by cash payment of the same. SUPERVISORS OF BENNER TWP.

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