

on the ear. Distinctive marks are made for each herd. The marking of the ear is an old established practice in the reindeer industry and owing to the thinness of a reindeer's skin is preferred to branding.

An important development in February, 1943, was the slaughter of about 300 animals of meat stock from Native Herd No. 1 and the sale of the meat to residents of the Aklavik area where there was a meat shortage. This sale provided a substantial income for the natives in charge of the herd. Reindeer meat has a fine grain and a distinctive flavour, is palatable and easily digested. If properly handled, the meat when cooked is juicy, tender, and free from gamy flavour.

In some northern countries reindeer are used for transportation purposes by nomadic peoples who depend on these animals for subsistence. In the Canadian herds a number of steers broken to harness are maintained for such purposes as moving the herd camp, hauling firewood, and transferring the herders' families, baggage, and supplies between the winter and summer ranges. Although sled deer are very useful under conditions where their natural food is obtainable en route, it is unlikely that they will replace dog teams for winter sled trips in the Canadian north.

**Characteristics of the Reindeer.**—Domesticated reindeer and wild caribou have somewhat similar physical characteristics and have been classified in the same genus of the deer family. They differ from other species of the deer family in that both sexes have horns. These are shed annually. The caribou range over a wide area in their migration but reindeer can be maintained within a comparatively limited area and are thus available when required. Reindeer also become attached to their home range and it was observed that as the older animals of the Canadian herd were replaced by younger stock, the tendency of the deer to return to their former Alaskan range disappeared. There is, however, an inclination on the part of animals removed from the main herd to return to the area in which they were born.

Reindeer in Canada and Alaska are usually brown and grey in colour. The neck and shoulders are greyish white, with darker shades on the back, abdomen, and hind quarters. The legs are almost black. The head is dark, and the mane, which becomes long in winter, is almost white. White and spotted deer are not uncommon. A full-grown reindeer stands from 42 to 44 inches high and measures about 7 feet from nose to tip of tail. The average dressed weight of steers in Canadian herds is now about 170 pounds, and that of aged does, 140 pounds.

As observed in North America, reindeer are considered to have some of the traits of sheep, cattle and horses. They are gregarious like sheep, graze somewhat like cattle, and in intelligence and activity more nearly resemble the horse. They prefer to travel facing the wind, have no difficulty in swimming a river or small lake when necessary, and are responsive to control by herders and their dogs. They tend to become wild only when herding and round-ups are neglected. Reindeer when disturbed form a compact body and rotate in a limited area. This movement is known as "milling", and in the Canadian herds the deer move in a counter-clockwise manner. This movement, clockwise or counter-clockwise, has an important bearing on corral construction.

The form of herding practised on the Canadian range requires the presence of herders with the reindeer at all times. Each herd, which is distinctively marked, is maintained in a separate location. This is known as "close herding", in contrast with "open herding" which is followed to some extent in Alaska where reindeer with different markings roam together over the range and are counted at a general round-up in which the various owners take part.