FOREST AND STREAM.

THE EUROPEAN BISON.

By W. WALDIE.

The animal most nearly allied to the American buffalo is the European bison, locally called the old bison, and the term was given it in the ancient and Russian languages, stier, an animal which about a thousand years ago inhabited the whole of Germany, Austria, Hungary and Russia.

Though this animal is commonly called by the people, ursoch, this is not the proper name. The ursoch was quite a different animal which became extinct many years ago. About it we know little more than can be gathered from excursions of its fossil bones and from the descriptions of old Russian and German writers, such as Speiser, Plinius, Albertus Magnus, Plisson, Czerwenksi, A. von Marquardt, Birtholomew Angilus, Paul Zodi, van Herckenrath and Georges. The old German laws and hunting reports also speak of two different kinds of wild oxen, and the celebrated "Niebelungenlied" also speaks of them. Plinius says that the bison or ursoch was frequently brought alive to Rome, where it showed its enormous strength in the bull fights. He further says that the ursoch was remarkable for its long mane, and the ursoch (uru) for its horns. Writing of Germany, Caesar says "there is a kind of wild ox or our domestic ox, one only with a single horn, which is a rarity in our country. No one knows the species which refers to the ursoch. Lucius David writes that in the year 1503, 300 of them were apparently procured to his beatrice, and some bison and some ursoch. "Czerwenksi says that Prince Wenzel killed in the year 1534 in Pomerania a bison which was nearer as large as an ursoch. Herberstein gives a figure of the bison and one of the ursoch, the latter closely resembling the domestic bull. Under this picture is written: "I am urso, called in Poland, Tur, and in Hungary, ursoch." This is about the last definite information we have about the ursoch. Dr. Constant Forest, in the year 1588 writes about the ursoch or aurochs, but speaks of it as a species which has died out.

All old writers speak very highly of the meat of the bison as also of that of the ursoch. The skin was also highly prized, the leather being used for various other purposes for lady's high rank, and even princes and queens were said to wear them.

Today in Europe we find the European bison living wild only in the western part of Russia. In the extensive forest of Kalinowsk, Blinoworsk or Blinoslovar, where it is carefully protected by the Russian government. This almost untouched forest is about 85 miles long and 30 wide, comprising a territory of 1,100,000 square miles; in order to be found only a few feet buried for the use of forest guards, though small villages occupy the border of the wood. About forty-five of the forest consists of pine, but in some place where the ground is moist, we find all the fir, pine, oak, linden, birch, alder, poplar and willow mingled with the pines. All the trees which grow here reach a great age and cover not so much as in your buffalo. The horns are placed at the side of the head and grow at first horizontally outward, then turning upward with the points slightly turned in. They are a little longer than the horns of your buffalo. The body is covered with a thick coat of light brown curled hair; the head, feet and shoulders being dark brown and the under parts of the tail black.

The hair on the head is very long and straight, and the body runs nearly to the ground, and continues under the throat down to the braose. The blone eye is much smaller than the bull. Her color is the same, but the horns are shorter and lighter and the mane is less developed. A new born calf is much lighter in color.

In the year 1523 a court of the bison in the Galowitz forest gave 711 heads, of which 60 were old ones and the remainder calves.

In the following year, 1589, the number increased to 721, but in the next year, 1581, it was reduced to 607. In the year 1735 the entire number found in Europe had been killed by the peasants. In 1793 the Duke of Warsaw found in Poland a species called the "Colosseum," and in what is now called Bulgaria, and everywhere in Europe.

THE EUROPEAN BISON.
INTRODUCTION OF THE CHOKEBERRY.

It was my good fortune to own a copy of "The Annotated "Charles Dickens"" when I was a youth and read it with relish. I was not satisfied with the annotations, but I enjoyed reading Dickens, who had a unique and delightful way of writing. I read his works with enthusiasm and appreciated his talent for describing characters and situations.

At the time, I was particularly interested in the novel "Great Expectations," and I remember feeling moved by the story of Pip and Estella. The novel had a profound impact on me, and I continued to read it whenever I could find a copy. I have been a fan of Dickens ever since, and I have always enjoyed his unique style of writing.

In conclusion, Dickens was a remarkable writer who captured the hearts and minds of readers around the world. His works continue to be widely read and enjoyed today, and I feel proud to have had the opportunity to read his works as a youth. I hope that others will also enjoy the stories of Pip and Estella and the other characters in "Great Expectations."

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