

"Old Forked Foot."

Away up in the Greenhorn range of mountains, about 45 miles west of Baker City, hunters and prospectors often catch a glimpse of a monster deer. He has roamed these hills for many years, and is known to every man, woman and child for miles around as "old forked foot," from the extraordinary spread of his toes. His track is easily known on this account, and old hunters have followed it for days, but the wily old rascal is too cute for any of them. Stories are told of his leading a whole band of deer away from hunters and disappearing with them as completely as though they had wings. Various opinions give his weight from 300 to 450 pounds, though a Baker City Nimrod who spent several weeks in these mountains this summer, and who had a good opportunity to make a calculation, gives an estimate of 350 pounds. This hunter was making for the highest peak in a small range of hills early one morning, and when near the top sat down on a log for a moment's rest.

"I laid my gun on the ground at my feet," as he tells it, "and, while starting a pipe, glanced up across a little opening in the pines, just ahead of me. At one side I thought I saw an ear just at the edge of some brush. Then I thought there was an eye near it, looking at me. I was not convinced, however, till the biggest buck a man ever saw trotted across the opening, not 50 feet from me. Astonishment overcame me, and I stood open-mouthed, and saw him disappear in the timber. I did recover in time to bring down the young doe that followed a moment later. But I had lost interest in deer hunting, and I sat down on that log and could have wept for grief at my stupidity in letting that buck escape me. He left the marks of the forked feet, and I followed the trail all day without success.

Next summer I am going back there, and if I don't bag this animal it will be for some better reason than I had this last time."

Floods In France.

PARIS, Oct. 30.—Heavy storms and floods have occurred in South-western France. The river Rhone has risen to such an extent that it has overflowed its banks in several places.

Rogamaure, Bequaure and Velabregue have been inundated and the ancient amphitheatres and casino have been flooded. The inhabitants of Velabregue are living for the time being in the upper stories of their houses.

Great anxiety is felt concerning the condition of affairs at Avignon, lower portions of which have been flooded. The valleys of the Saone and the Ardeche have been inundated by the torrent of rain.

The upper district of Cevennes has suffered great damage. A part of Auxerreb has been inundated, and food has to be taken to the inhabitants from outside districts by boats. Numerous small towns in France report more or less extensive floods and loss of property.

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