

men, or are the relics of some poor settler who vainly endeavored to hew a homestead out of the timber and rocks. One thing peculiar was noticed in the rocks, many of which appeared to run in narrow ridges, and for the most part in one direction.

Enthusiastic meetings of farmers and business men were held at Bracebridge, morning, afternoon and evening, on February 5th. Some who were present came long distances on foot, and in the evening the Hon. Mr. Drury having arrived, those who remained were amply repaid by a practical, and eloquent address from that gentleman. In addition to music, songs, etc., an address by Miss Hollinsworth, daughter of the President, on "Botany for Farmers' Daughters," would put to shame many of the fair sex in the older parts of the Province, while some of the sterner sex might take a lesson from this wood nymph of Muskoka. Bracebridge is a small town, and all its inhabitants seemed to take an interest in the farmers of the surrounding country. There is some talk of starting a cheese factory and hauling milk by boat, as one man estimated that the milk of 300 or 400 cows could be obtained in this way within a short distance.

Utterson was the next point, and the distance was traversed with the Sheriff of the district as coachman. We passed some fine brick houses on the way, but as our driver remarked, "the land was all better 'way back." This is a small place, but has two hotels, in fact there appear to be more hotels than anything else, in nearly all the villages in this district. There were about forty farmers at the meeting and the only wonder was where they came from. Here as at Bracebridge the addresses were apparently greatly appreciated.

A run for the train in the evening, and we were on the road to North Bay, a stirring place of about two thousand inhabitants, whose chief source of income is the railroad, which pays out about \$20,000 per month, the repair shops being located at this place. These shops run night and day. As we boarded the bus the driver in response to the query, how far is it to the hotel? answered, "three or four acres," and we wondered. There is a large Separate School in the town, but the streets, as indeed do they all in these northern towns, do not appear to be laid out with any regularity, every one apparently having a street where it suited his or her fancy, no matter what the direction or the angle it formed with the others.

There is not much agricultural land here, but at Bracebridge and Utterson, there are very good tracts which are paying those who till them, owing to the fact of there being such a good home demand, as nearly all farm produce brings a higher price here, than in older parts of the province, owing to the lumber and mining camps.

After leaving North Bay the C. P. R. skirts the northern shore of Lake Nipissing, for many miles. Here and there is to be seen an agriculturist who is endeavoring to make for himself a home among the wilds; near one shanty I noticed a multiplication of services, the barbed wire fence of the railroad being utilised as a clothes line on which to dry the week's washing. (No clothes pins required). Soon after leaving Meadowsides, the lake cannot be seen for some time. At Sturgeon Falls which is quite a village, no rock is visible, but the land is a yellow sand.

We were entertained along the way by a lady, who appeared very anxious to make a good impression on the gentleman by her side, about whom my Hon. friend remarked he would guarantee he was not her husband. He certainly did not get a chance to say much, and the lady had it all her own way. We pitied him, and rather envied his powers of endurance.

On both sides great tall trees stretched forth their blackened, withered arms, and disclosed their charred trunks, seeming to say, "Oh, why has man treated me so, when I might have been a help and a blessing to him, had I been used humanely, but now there is nothing for it but to stand as a silent protest against the wholesale destruction of my still living friends." What timber there is along the track is principally second growth of black ash, cedar and birch. Here and there a sleigh track is seen, for the most part winding down or up the streams.

Past Verner and Warner we reach Woniipiac which has been the seat of a large lumber trade, but now the timber is twenty miles back, and the logs are floated down the river. A crowd of lumbermen were at the station, and the shanties in the vicinity appeared to be well stocked, so that there is not likely to be a famine in *lumbermen* very shortly, judging from the visible supply for the present and future.

Sudbury! The centre of the mineral wealth of this district. Would that space allowed a