

white pine, rose like so many giants, swaying to and fro and wagging their heads mournfully over the rising generation. This was the country of the rampikes. What are rampikes? Well, I'll tell you. A good many years ago, but well within the present century, tremendous bush fires raged all along the country on both sides of the Ottawa, and thousands and thousands of acres of the best pine country on this continent were totally destroyed, and now the former monarchs of the forest raise their scarred and bleached limbs towards the sky—a mute protest against a cruel and undeserved fate—mute did I say; not altogether so, for on a windy night they may be seen waving their ghostly limbs and heard mourning to each other with many a dismal groan.

Lower Trout Lake is four miles long and very narrow. Its greatest width not being over half a mile. It is surrounded by bold and rocky shores clad with second growth poplar and birch and the ghastly and skeleton rampikes I have just spoken of. While paddling down this stretch we caught another large maskinongé, twenty-five pounds in weight. This one also was despatched by pistol bullets, not concussion. There is a considerable difference among authors as to the correct name for this fish. I have seen no less than eight different methods of spelling it. Among them may be mentioned “Masqu’ allongé,” “Maskinonge,” “Muskellunge,” “Muscalinga,” “Masquinongy,” and “Muscanonga,” the most likely one is Masqu’ allongé, meaning long face, it is a French translation of the Indian words Mascanonga, long snout. Masqu’ allongé (*Esox estor*) of twenty pounds weight are common and they have been known to attain a weight of seventy pounds with a length of six feet. They prey upon other fish and it is not uncommon to find one of several pounds weight inside them. In fact in the first one we caught was found a brook trout about twelve inches long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pound weight.

Lower Trout Lake makes its exit into Lake Talon by way of the “Lost River” but as this road is four miles long with five rapids in the first two miles, it is easier and shorter to get into Pine Lake by way of the Portage de la Mauvaise Musique and from Pine Lake to Lake Talon by Portage des Pins. Lake Talon (or Tallow, as the natives call it) is 31 feet below Lower Trout Lake, and is an uninteresting lake some seven miles long with an average breadth of a little over half a mile. With the exception of parts of the northern shore where slopes of semi-hardwood are to be found, it is surrounded on all sides by bold rocky shores, covered with second growth poplar and birch and the everlasting rampike. Along the south shore the blueberry grows in the greatest profusion and to a very large size. Champlain in his voyage of 1615 makes mention of this profusion of blueberries. The chief feature of the Lake, however, as far as we were concerned, was the homestead of an English gentleman named Grasswell who has settled on a narrow strip of land about the centre of the north side, and who gave us a kind invitation to visit his establishment.

Mr. Grasswell gave us some kind information about the Mattawa