

TEN MINUTES IN MATTAWA.

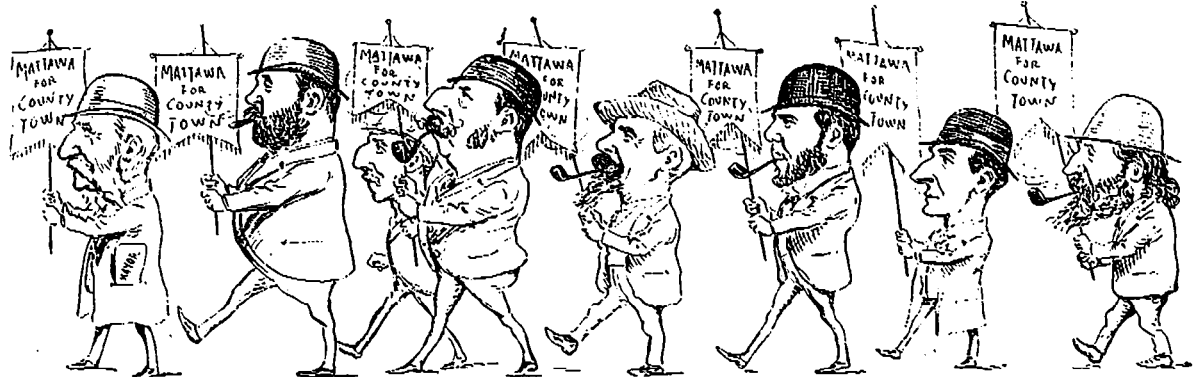
BY OUR UNCOMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.



carries the traveller to Mattawa, a point about forty miles to the east. This sounds expeditious, but it may as well be mentioned that you arrive in North Bay about 7.30 a.m. and lie over all day, unless you can get a permit to travel on a freight train. Arrived at Mattawa, you of course go up to

THE Canada Pacific train running on the Grand Trunk track—a neighborly and amicable arrangement which is worthy of note—carries the Toronto passenger to North Bay, the thriving town which sits enthroned upon the north shore of Lake Nipissing, something more than two hundred miles due north of the city which is honored as *Grip's* publishing place. At North Bay, a Canadian Pacific train running on its own track—Port Arthur to Montreal via the north shore—

Peter O'Farrell's hotel, and on the way the proper thing is to admire the scenery and express your admiration in positive terms. Unless you do this you may be justly regarded as a person with no sense of the beautiful. The town will justify a good deal of exuberance in the use of complimentary adjectives, as it nestles amidst the towering hills at the junction of the Ottawa and Mattawa rivers. It monopolizes about everything the north shore possesses in the way of scenery, though I am told the country a few miles further north, at Lake Temiscameng is a veritable Paradise, much patronized of late by American summer tourists. As the base of supplies for the numerous lumber camps up the river, Mattawa is a brisk place of business, especially in the fall and winter seasons. Just now things are quiet, and the citizens have more time for general conversation. As a matter of fact, however, it is not very general—it is nearly all on the subject of the County Town question. The Nipissing district, be it known, has been raised to the dignity of a Judicial District by the Ontario Government, and now it must have a County



Town. There are three contestants for the honor, Mattawa, North Bay and Sturgeon Falls, and a great deal of canvassing, wire pulling, etc., is going on. This is unfortunate, but it is all the fault of Mowat and his wicked partners. Had they left the matter to a vote of the Mattawa people, (as they might have done) the difficulty would have been solved long ago, and North Bay and Sturgeon Falls would have been saved a lot of mental worry. Mattawa is of the opinion that the county buildings, and the dignity appertaining thereto, will give the finishing touch to what is already the finest place in northern Ontario. If Sir Oliver takes the same view all will be well; if not, I can imagine that the folks up there, notwithstanding their natural hospitality, might be capable of taking a horrible revenge upon him if he ever ventured inside the corporation. He might for example, be cornered in Peter O'Farrell's sitting room, and while the ferocious "Fairy" kept him prisoner, Mr. Shanks might force him to consume burnt oysters of his own cooking while de Sousa played the piano at him, and



meanwhile he was slowly suffocated by fumes from all the tobacco pipes in town. For my part I sincerely hope Mattawa will be made county town, if North Bay or Sturgeon Falls does not get the honor. I spoke to some of the North Bay people on my return and they did not seem to see any particular fitness about Mattawa. They were decidedly of opinion that North Bay was *the* place for a county town. It was pointed out to me that it was situated most centrally; but I distinctly remembered that on the map I was shown in Mattawa that town was more central still. I want to see a Sturgeon Falls map before I come to any conclusion on the geographical point. But North Bay certainly has its good points, even although the Council sat down rather brusquely on the W.C.T.U.'s recent proposal for the erection of a drinking fountain. It rejoices in some excellent citizens—specimens are herewith submitted—and there are few towns of the size that can boast three preachers of the ability

Brother Phelps

Brother Phelps