

EXPLORING ONTARIO'S COUNTRYSIDE

In July the Simpsons and Paul left Toronto for the family cottage on one of the 30,000 little islands in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, less than 100 miles northwest of the city. They cruised among wooded islands and inlets, where they had fun fishing for bass and lake trout.

From Georgian Bay they drove northward through the Muskoka Lake district into Ontario's largest provincial park, Algonquin Park, some thousands of square miles in size. The evergreen forests here are a natural wilderness where wild life is protected, and few human habitations are to be seen, apart from wardens' and rangers' cottages.

There in the Park they hired a tent and canoe, collected some provisions, and started out on a three-day trip along a chain of lakes and rivers. This wilderness life was the most thrilling experience Paul had had in Canada so far. They spent three warm July days paddling and portaging, fishing and swimming. In the evenings, they set up camp, cooking their meals in the open, and watching birds going home to their nests and deer and bears coming down to the water to drink.

Paul had never seen anything like it before. "There are no towns here," he said, "and hardly any farms or villages. It's all rocks and forest and water."

"Here," Mr. Simpson said to Paul, producing a large-scale map of Ontario, "I'll show you where we are now." He pointed out the divisions known as Southern and Northern Ontario. The former, he said, was the agricultural part of the province. Northern Ontario, a region about five times as great, was, he said of a barren and rocky nature and, for the most part, unsuited to the growing of crops. Its wealth lay in its vast mineral deposits.

