

ON THE DOG RIVER.

"Bely bad clooked liver" said my Indian guide as he shouldered his pack for the twenty-first portage of that day. The course of this 'crooked river' you will find on no map, at least on no published one. Twenty miles west of Michipicoton Post the chart of the north shore of Lake Superior shows a stream "ten fathoms wide at the entrance." Fishermen we met knew it as Dog River, but none seemed to know whence it came. Indeed this section of Ontario is a veritable *terra incognita*. From the mouth of the Michipicoton north-westward to the mouth of the White, a distance of one hundred miles, nothing is shown on our maps but the immediate shore line. Northward forty to fifty miles the Canadian Pacific Railway has carved through the wilderness a line of travel.

This area of over three thousand square miles our party undertook to explore the past summer. We were sent out by the Bureau of Mines of Ontario, and were expected to report on the geology, mineralogy, timber and water-power of the district and to construct maps as far as possible.

A paddle of a quarter of a mile convinced Mr. George, '97, and myself that the river would be very hard to ascend. A walk of two miles more brought stronger currents and then rapids, and finally a succession of falls aggregating 150 feet. Away beyond were more flat rapids, beautiful places to glide down but most abominable ones to 'pole' up. One can portage round a fall, but for a long, flat rapid there is nothing to be done but to push yourself up foot by foot.

We quickly reached the conclusion that it would be easier to come down the Dog River than to go up it. Executing a flank movement of 150 miles we next appeared at White River, a station on the C. P. R. forty-five miles north of the mouth of Dog River. An Indian trader here, Mr. McDougall, was able to give us the desired information. One hard day's journey up the White River and over the height-of-land portage would bring us into the head waters of the Dog. Indeed, he could furnish us with Indian guides who knew the whole route. As we needed a man for each canoe, the proposal was gladly accepted and I set