

ALGOMA SKETCHES AND PICTURES

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THE smaller works of this collection were made on a sketching trip along the line of the Algoma Central Railway, during the last three weeks of September, 1918.

As the country is quite unsettled, and has no boarding accommodation, the artists travelled and lived in an old freight car, fitted with a stove, bunks, etc. The car was left on different sidings where the country was especially picturesque and characteristic. Three stops were made, the first and most northerly at Canyon, 113 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie, then at Hubert, then at Batchewanna. The sketches are arranged approximately in the order of their production, and the advance of the Fall may be noted by comparing the sketches made at the different points. The weather was very wet at first, but some work was done, rain or shine.

The larger pictures shown were painted at home after the trip, some of them as efforts to reproduce, with deeper truth of feeling or character, a representative scene sketched and studied on the spot. Others were painted as imaginative summaries of impressions made by the country on the mind of the artist.

The whole collection may be taken as an evidence that Canadian artists generally are interested in the discovery of their own country. Too often their work is ridiculed by the ignorant, and criticized adversely by an unsympathetic narrowness of mind, as though it had no traceable connection with Nature.