

in these northern wilds, that a century later it would be peopled each summer by thousands seeking rest and health during their summer vacation.

Muskoka is an unorganized district, having no municipal government, but being under the direct control of the Ontario Legislature, owing to its being so sparsely settled. In it are twenty-one townships, and it covers an area, roughly, of 1,500 square miles. The population is about 21,000.

The rock formation throughout Muskoka is the Laurentian, a continuation of that which extends throughout northern Ontario and Quebec. It is not mountainous, but a succession of jutting boulders and huge hog-backs covered with vegetation, except where denuded by forest fires. Scattered through it are hundreds of pretty lakes, all of which are dotted with islands. Only rarely does the soil come to the water's edge; either rocks or sand beaches form the shore line everywhere, while the islands for the most part are huge masses of rock rising boldly out of the water, verdure clad. In the three lakes, Muskoka (22 miles long), Rosseau and Joseph (each 16 miles long), are over 400 islands.

Pine and hemlock abound everywhere. The principal deciduous trees are the sugar maple, beech, basswood (Linden), and the birches. The silver birch and aspen are seen everywhere blending their pale green with the deeper green of the larger trees. The flora of the district is a very rich one. The Alpine flora of northern Canada begins here, while all the plants of Ontario, except the southernmost, find a home. Within a radius of a mile of the Sanatorium at Gravenhurst over 300 species of flowering plants are to be found, while the lichens, mosses and ferns grow in abundance and most luxuriantly; the great *Osmundas* are almost tropical in their growth, very fine specimens of club mosses are found everywhere, and pitcher plants and various orchids, particularly *Habenaria*, *Cypripedium* and *Pogonia*, reveal themselves, not to the hurrying tourist, but to those who know their favorite haunts.

The summers are warm, with as a rule, cool nights. Only occasionally is there a night which is uncomfortably warm. The mean daily maximum for June, July and August is 77.4 and mean daily minimum 53.3. During September it becomes noticeably cooler, the mean daily maximum being 69.3 and the mean daily minimum 48.0. Late September and early October are delightful with the gorgeous coloring of the maples and oaks, mixed with the yellows and browns of the beeches, aspens and birches, with the green background of pines and hemlocks or the dull reds and browns of the granite rocks or the grey and green of the lichens and mosses which flourish on them. No pen can