



## THUNDER BAY

**En route** The trip from Port Arthur means a departure at a convenient hour and a delightful run along the shores of Thunder Bay in a luxurious observation car. Passing the Current River Park, the "Great Lakes" shipbuilding and other plants, the traveller is very soon outside the City and enjoys the beautiful panorama of the Bay at short range. Silver Harbor, Amethyst Harbor, Caribou Island, are all successively in the foreground, and always in the middle distance is the form of the Sleeping Giant. Rising gradually higher and higher until the fine viaduct over Blende River is crossed, the route lies to the southward for a short distance. From an elevation of over two hundred feet is a view of the whole bay stretching from one's very feet, as it seems, to McKay's Mountain and the Pie, a view



A glimpse of the Nipigon.

which has been pronounced one of the finest on the whole Canadian National Railways between Montreal and the Rockies.

In the next hour the route winds among steep hills high up on their slopes, catching glimpses of Black Bay, and skirting its low northern shores, crossing the Black Sturgeon, passing under the shadow of the great bluffs of Cape Crawford, and out on to the edge of Nipigon Bay, the shores of which are followed for over a mile with a towering bluff on the left and deep water close on the right, with the lofty island of La Grange and Isle Verte in sight. Farther away, to the southeast, is St. Ignace, the loftiest mountain in the neighborhood, the highest point in the Province of Ontario and possibly the highest between Montreal and the Rocky Mountains.

The railway then follows the Nipigon River, the most famous trout stream in the world, besides being the



PRINCE  
ARTHUR  
HOTEL

PORT  
ARTHUR  
ONTARIO

largest feeder of Lake Superior. Passing the village of Nipigon, once an important post of the Hudson Bay Company, then up the valley and out again on to the shores of an expansion, is Lake Helen, a long narrow lake bordered by bold hills on the east. Nestling at their feet near the southern end is the Roman Catholic Mission to the Indians. The Nipigon is crossed a few miles farther up, and near Cameron's Falls the railway turns away from it and follows a parallel valley which was once its channel, but, as is the case with so many of our rivers, the glacial drift came down from the North and plugged it with the debris from the hills which it had ground down. When the Nipigon started into business again, it found it easier to use another valley farther west. Left in this abandoned valley are a number of pretty lakes forming a chain between lofty precipitous hills of the same columnar basalt as around Thunder Bay.

Speeding north, this gorge opens out below Keemle Lake and thence the route lies alongside the Orient Bay of Lake Nipigon.

**Lake Nipigon** Lake Nipigon, the Ojibway "Aweenipigo," freely translated, "the water which stretches far," is a very large body of water. It is really the sixth great lake of the St. Lawrence chain, with a shore line of 810 miles, and its main collecting basin. Curiously enough, although it was known to the early fur traders and explorers in the 17th Century (the Hudson Bay Company have had posts on it for many years; in fact the Nipigon House was the third post established by the Hudson Bay Co.), it had been quite forgotten by the Geographers until 1870, when the explorations in connection with the Canadian Pacific brought it into prominence again. One of its greatest charms is the clearness and purity of its water, another is the maze of islands and peninsulas which break it up in separate bodies, many of them, such as McIntyre and Ombabika Bays, being in themselves large lakes.

**Nipigon Trout** But perhaps the greatest glory of Nipigon is its fish. "Mashamagoos," the Speckled Trout, reaches 13 lbs. in weight; "Onzemagoos," the Great Lake Trout, 25 lbs. or more, and "Nahuma," the Sturgeon, 100 lbs. The whitefish has not interested the sportsman much, though he can be caught with fly or bait, but he is perhaps the most toothsome of all, and generally occupies a prominent position in the dining car menu card. Nipigon is the home of the whitefish, and to see him as the writer has, struggling up the rapids of one of the tributary rivers to his spawning grounds in thousands, and making the smooth water stretches fairly boil with his movement, is a sight which will interest any lover of nature, and even the pure and simple trout hog.



## THUNDER BAY

**Orient Bay** Orient Bay is itself some ten miles long and two wide, and probably the most picturesque and bold of all in its scenery. The bluffs to the east rise nearly 1000 feet above it, and over these, after a spell of rain, drop cascades several hundred feet in height. Tongues of richly coloured basalt jut out into it, as at Chisel point, and through this, one of the longest tunnels (1250 ft.) of the Canadian National Railways has been bored. Between these tongues are pretty coves with sand and gravel beaches, ideal camping grounds. Orient Bay is a pleasant place to rest. The tourist can paddle around gently on the upper reaches of the Bay or venture into wider waters to the north in the calm evenings. He can sit in comfort on the verandah of "Nipigon Lodge," and watch the gorgeous sunsets of the Northland, draw deep breaths of the purest air in the world, and sleep under a pair of blankets in the hottest of mid-summer weather. He will, in a day or two, feel ambitious to go further afield or "awater." And there are a number of interesting trips which he can take. He may turn up the Pustagone a mile or two to the north, portage over to the Sturgeon, and, after threading a multitude of lakes and streams, running or portaging dozens of rapids and falls, come out again on Lake Nipigon after a voyage of 150 miles, twenty miles north of where he went in. He may cross the Lake to Nipigon House and see a real H.B.C. Post, and Indians only partially spoiled by civilization. He may coast along the south shore of the Lake and poke into Three Mountain, McIntyre and Chiefs Bays, and he will always find perfect camping grounds, amid beautiful surroundings, and fish enough for the frying pan.



"Packing" down the Nipigon.