

The Joachim Rapids passed, chiefly by portaging, we found ourselves in the part of the Ottawa known as the Deep River. While paddling down this stretch an animal of some sort was seen swimming ahead, and at first was taken to be an otter; closer inspection, however, showed it to be a squirrel boldly striking out for the north shore: there was quite choppy water on the river at the time, and what must have been to him great waves. The little chap showed great judgment, for instead of striking directly across, by far the shortest road, he was swimming diagonally with the wind and waves.

The river here is fully a quarter of a mile wide, and the course taken by the squirrel much longer. It was the first time I had seen a squirrel swim, and was much surprised. Some years ago, at Collingwood, on the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron, we had an inundation of squirrels. There is a good deal of lumbering done in that part of the country, and with certain winds the Bay is covered with edgings and pine chips, which are, in the general order of things, thrown on the shore. At the time I allude to, every edging and chip had its occupant and some times two or three. The whole place was overrun with them, and you could not pass a bush or a stump without startling two or three. But though they proved such fearless little voyageurs, I never saw one of them swimming before.

Misfortune again; another boom, and on the wrong side, of course. In this case, however, misfortune was good fortune, for a good natured boom-keeper not only opened a gap to let the canoes through, but also presented us with a couple of fish—a pike and a sturgeon, caught the night before with a jack lantern and spear. The average weight of pike (*Esox lucius*) is from five to ten pounds, but in the big lakes this fish reaches a much larger size. It is not a good fish to eat, as it frequently has an earthy flavor. It is most easily caught with the troll. The pike is noted for its voracity. It will gulp down almost anything it can.

The sturgeons are inhabitants of the ocean, Mediterranean, Red, Black and Caspian seas. The species found in the Canadian Lakes, and in the spring time in the larger rivers flowing into these lakes is *Acipenser rubicundus*. The Mouth is situated beneath the snout, is small, retractile and without teeth. There are several fleshy barbels beneath the snout. The body is defended by hard, bony plates. I have been told by Indians on the Mississaga River, north of Lake Huron, that they have been caught there with the spear as much as five and six feet in length. In the Black and Caspian seas sturgeon attain the length of twenty-five feet, and a weight of over two thousand pounds. The roe constitutes the caviar of commerce. The flesh is strong tasting unless the fish are quite young, when it is very palatable. In former days it was considered a great delicacy at any time.

After a while the deep river opened out into Allumette Lake, and a beautiful sheet of water it is. Near the Upper end is situated the old Hudson Bay Post of Fort William, at the present time a small