

A JOURNEY TO MUSKOKA.

The Killarney of Western Canada With Its Lakes and Dells.

Glimpses of Progressive Towns Along the way American Tourists Who Combine Business and Pleasure—Their Hunting and Fishing Lodges—The Region Easy of Access.

PUSHING onward from Brockville to the "Queen City" on my way to Muskoka, I boarded the Grand Trunk Railway train a few mornings ago at 8:40 at the Union Station, Toronto, and quickly headed northward for the famous summer resort so popularly known to Canadian pleasure seekers and American tourists. And although we are traveling northwards we pass many thriving villages and towns, such as Thornhill, Richmond Hill, King, Aurora, Newmarket, Holland Landing, Bradford, Gifford, LeRoy, Craigville, Allandale, the latter being a suburb of Barrie, both of which are situated on the shores of Kempenfelt Bay, a part of the beautiful Lake Simcoe. We passed the other towns in a mood of indifference, but not so in the picturesque town of Barrie, for it has a situation of unrivalled beauty which challenges the attention of every tourist who journeys this way, and, despite our eagerness to see the enchanted district beyond, we left the train to make an inspection of the last named place, and found it all our fancy had painted it. Lonely homes stretch away along the shores of the bay, and one feels an instinctive liking for the place at first sight. Its leading business street seems to have the commercial vigor of a city thoroughfare, but Barrie lacks in manufacturing industrial life and has to depend much upon the volume of country trade that flows into it on the three market days of the week. I got various items of interest concerning the place from Mr. and Mrs. Archibald McAllister, whose guest I was, and I paid a visit to the Deanery, but missed the pleasure of a chat with the genial Dean Egan, who is at present on a visit to Ireland. I was, however, well received by Rev. Father Sweeney, and had a chance to see the church, the splendid convent and magnificent new separate school.

Between here and Orillia many handsome settlements intervene, but attention fixes itself upon that town of real beauty and splendid scenery, all around it are spread the sparkling waters of Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. After leaving Orillia we pass some stations of more or less importance and land at Gravenhurst, which may be termed the threshold or gateway that leads to the promised land of healthful coolness and restful ease itself, for Muskoka wharf is but a mile away, and from thence the four or five steamers of the Muskoka Navigation Co. carry the passengers to lakes, rivers and islands that literally swarm with enchanted spots of beauty that refresh both soul and body, and soothe the mind into a forgetfulness of past worries and exaltations that could never be overcome in the boiling atmosphere of overheated and tumultuous cities. This is decidedly a providential land of rest and repose, wherein the mind acquires the faculty of calm reflection, and can take a square look into the broils, temptations and delusions and corruptions of city life, and make a just estimate of their grinding follies. Any serious minded person who calmly surveys the beautiful and serene waters and surroundings of lakes Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph, must gather freshness and renewed vigor of spirit from the sight, but it must not be supposed from this view of the case that any large proportion of tourists come down here to reflect, or bustling New Yorkers come here by the boat load and they enjoy themselves to their hearts' content in boating, fishing and hunting large game, for this land of infinite variety offers sports of many kinds. And, then again, shrewd American capitalists have a fashion of combining business and pleasure, and those of such build often look around them in the country of forests, mines and agricultural belts as to the possibilities of future investments.

Of course there are large tracts throughout this region where the rocky foundations are too staunch ever to be subdued or altered, and can never be turned to agricultural profit. Then, the lakes will ever remain the same, in all human probability, and the combination of natural scenery will be always regarded as the holiday headquarters of Torontonians and the people in general of Ontario, as well as an increased influx of Americans each recurring season. The bulk of the people in Quebec Province will, no doubt, bear allegiance to the charms of their own marvellous scenery along the routes of the St. Lawrence, the far-famed Saguenay and the gorgeous Lake St. John, but citizens of Upper Canada and certain sections of the United States will adhere to Muskoka as the Mecca of their hopes and pleasures whenever the heated term approaches.

On my way from Bracebridge wharf to Port Cockburn, which includes Muskoka River and Lake, Lakes Rosseau and Joseph, I noticed that the tourists' steamers were crowded with Americans, and upon making particular inquiries I learned that about 5,000 of them are at present touring in Muskoka, and many of them are more than casual visitors, as is indicated by such permanent establishments as the "Sharon Social Club," the "Solid Comfort Club," Port Sandfield Hunt Club, etc. The numerous shores of the three lakes, named above, form a coast line of hundreds of miles, with some four hundred beautiful

islands inserted here and there with more or less regularly, and many of these are studded with handsome summer cottages, which look the very perfection of abodes in which to restore wasted energies and disordered nerves. Then, for the muscular men who prefer hunting large game, as well as for the exhausted business man who devotes ten or eleven months in the year to commercial pursuits, this is an ideal place in which to spend a profitable holiday.

Nor is Muskoka hard to reach either by those who come from the east or west. Approaching it from the east the tourist can leave the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway system at Belleville, or at Port Hope, and pursue his way on to Orillia, connecting there with the Grand Trunk train coming from Toronto. Of course, passengers heading for Muskoka, from points in the United States, London, Hamilton, etc., converge at Toronto, and thence go direct to Muskoka wharf at Gravenhurst, or they may go on some twelve miles further to Bracebridge, and from either port they can take one of the Muskoka Navigation Company's steamers right up through the lake, returning the same day, for trips are made twice daily. And those who wish to pause on the way can rest at any of the way ports and resume by the next boat, or if they go on to the head of Lake St. Joseph, at Port Cockburn, and choose to remain all night, a return boat will be waiting for them next morning at 7:30. But nobody who could at all spare the time would want to leave the charming natural regions in a day or even in a week, and after stopping there for a period, whether long or short, the visitor has to tear himself away from the fascinating vale of this favored summer resort. It is a well recognized principle of travel that the carrying corporations show attention and civility to the travelling public. In this respect the Grand Trunk Railway system enjoy a well earned reputation after such a long term of public service, and as for the captains, purser and crews of the fine steamers comprising the Muskoka Navigation Company's fleet, courtesy, a disposition to oblige and uniform civility are watchwords with them. Then as to the other facilities of travel, there are post office branches all along the route and a regular postal service. And hotels, of course, abound in every village, stopping place and hamlet. I am writing these lines at the Port Carling House, an ideal home, owned and run by Mr. Joseph Ruddy, who has already earned the name of being a courteous and capable caterer to the general public. Port Carling is the leading place on the chain of lakes; it is situated picturesquely on Indian River, which connects Muskoka Lake with Lake Rosseau. It is a spot especially endowed by nature's choicest gifts, and it has a reading room, a post office and telegraph communication. All boats call here and every part of this region can be reached from the central point. One critic says no means exhausts all that may be said of Muskoka and its wonderful attractions, and with the Managing Director's leave, I should like to treat of its features in another paper.

WM. ELLISON.

NOTES ON CATHOLIC NEWS.

As announced in these columns some time ago, the Holy Father has decided that Catholics throughout the whole world shall unite in a solemn manifestation of faith, love and reparation in expiation of the sins of the century which is fast drawing to a close, and to consecrate to Almighty God the century that is to follow. To carry out this desire of His Holiness an international committee has been formed, of which His Eminence Cardinal Jacobini is the honorary president. The committee, it is stated, proposes the following as a means of complying with that desire:

DEVOTIONS AND PILGRIMAGES.

I. Catholics during the close of the century will greatly increase the number of pilgrimages to the most celebrated diocesan and national shrines. They are especially invited to take part, either personally or uniting in prayer, in the four grand general pilgrimages that will be made.

1. To Lourdes, in 1898;
2. To the holy places in Palestine, in 1899;
3. To the Holy House of Loreto, in 1900; and
4. Rome, in 1900-1901.

II. During these three years, in the different dioceses, as may be directed by their respective ecclesiastical authorities, the committee asks for the organization of missions, or special sermons, works of devotion and prayer to obtain for the people the grace of perseverance in the faith, the return of separated Christians to the Church of Christ and for peace and prosperity among all nations.

COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENTS.

It is proposed, besides this: III. The erection, in cathedrals and in important churches, of a commemorative cross bearing the following inscription:

ANNO MDCCC.

IESVS CHRISTVS DENIS-HOMO VIVAT. REGNAT. IMPERAT.

1. These monuments will be inaugurated at the great solemnity on the night of the 31st December, 1900.
2. The solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during forty consecutive hours, beginning the 30th of December, 1900 in the evening, and lasting until the morning of the 1st January, 1901.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

3. The adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in all the churches during the night will unite the two centuries.
4. It will be in Rome, the centre of our holy religion, that the most solemn and impressive ceremonies of expiation, of gratitude, and supplication for mercy and graces will take place, in which it is desirable that all Catholics should unite.

CELEBRATED IN ROME.

5. The Sovereign Pontiff, on the feast of the Epiphany, 1901, will receive, offi-

cially, the homage expressive of the gratitude, the fidelity and the love of all his faithful children throughout the world.

6. The International Committee will, on this occasion, place at the feet of His Holiness an offering commemorative of the devotion of all Catholics to their chief pastor.

7. Individuals, families, cities, nations, the clergy, the faithful, will all unite in intention, in heart, and thus contribute to render a solemn act of homage to Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and to his august Vicar.

Confirmation of the report of the promotion of the Rev. Thomas Magennis, pastor of St. Thomas's Church, Jamaica Plain, to the high post of domestic prelate in the Pope's household, has been received through the apostolic delegate, Archbishop Martinelli, who has the pontifical brief in Latin duly signed and bearing the seal of Leo XIII. himself, and also extending to him the expression of esteem for his parish work. Father Magennis was born in Lowell, March 7, 1846.

The new protector for homeless boys will be opened in Philadelphia in November next. The institution, it is said, will cost \$400,000. To the honor of the Catholics of the archdiocese and the great zeal of Archbishop Ryan, it is stated that the institution will open its doors without one dollar of indebtedness.

The Holy Name Societies of Brooklyn are now making arrangements for a public demonstration as a protest against the too common use of profane and blasphemous language. The societies in the various parishes will assemble at one point and march to one of the churches in the diocese, where a sermon will be preached.

The death of the Rev. Eugene M. McDermott, for twenty-three years pastor of St. Stephen's, Buffalo, N.Y., is announced. It occurred last week. Rev. Eugene M. McDermott was born in the County of Roscommon, Ireland, in 1846. He came to the United States when about ten years old and became a student at Niagara University in 1864. He was ordained a priest on June 7, 1869 by the late Bishop Ryan. Soon after his ordination he was sent to Belmont, N.Y. After leaving Belmont he was assigned as curate under the late Rt. Rev. Mgr. Gleason of St. Bridget's, this city, with authority to begin the great work of his life, which was the creation of a new parish to be known as St. Stephen's. The young priest displayed such energy in his new field that the new church was formed and St. Stephen's Church was opened and formally dedicated, Dec. 25, 1875—not the handsome edifice of today, but a modest brick structure having a seating capacity for about 600. In 1886 St. Stephen's parish was found to have outgrown its church and school accommodations. Father McDermott was again equal to the emergency and took the entire work on his own shoulders as he had the upbuilding of the parish. A handsome new limestone church seating about 1,800 was built over the site of the primitive structure.

On the Bunker Hill road, just outside of Washington, overlooking Brookland and the Catholic University, there is rising day by day a great building of brick, 300 feet long and half as many feet deep. When completed, the building will be perhaps the most remarkable in the United States, for there will be established the first monastery of the powerful Order of the Franciscan monks in this country.

The Order is now represented in the United States at several places by a few members, but there is no home for the monks now in existence outside of the old countries. The land upon which the monastery is being erected, says the Washington Post, cost \$40,000, and was bought over a year ago by parties in New York. Ground was broken for the new building early last spring, and it is expected that it will be completed during the present year, probably some time in November.

The dedication will be the occasion of an impressive ceremony. The monastery is being built in the form of a hollow square, and it will be supplied with every known modern convenience. In the court there will be planted trees and flowers and the space otherwise beautified.

The monks who will occupy the new monastery are known as the Brown Franciscans, in contradistinction to the other branch of the order, called the Black Franciscans. They are garbed in a coarse dress of brown material, with a hood that covers the head, and the waist is belted in by a heavy knotted rope or cord.

It is said that when the monastery is completed a few monks will go there from New York, but the main body of them will come direct from Italy, where the headquarters of the order is now located. It is also said that in the near future the headquarters of the entire

MRS. JOS. TRUDEL

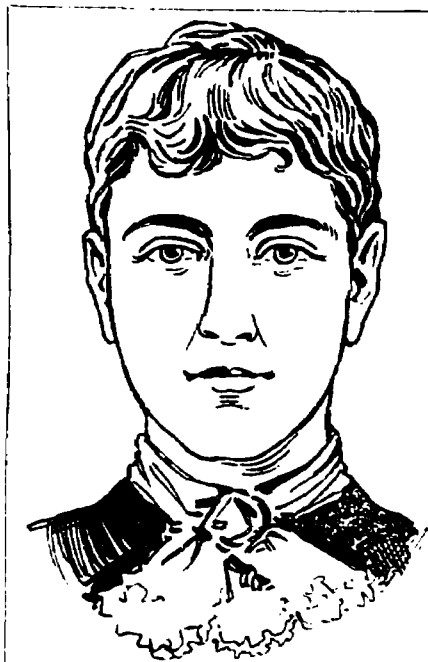
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MRS. JOS. TRUDEL.

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