

the Upper Canada shore slopes more regularly, and a short distance from the river I noticed some hardwood growing on good soil, but generally too stony for agricultural purposes.

From the Deep River to Matawang, the scenery retains nearly the same appearance, the northerly bank being generally bounded by the most elevated land. At Matawang the route leaves the Ottawa and proceeds by the Little River. The course of this stream is westerly; at its junction with the Ottawa it is 200 feet wide, and about 6 feet deep; a short distance higher up it shallows and passes over a rocky channel about 2 miles; after which it deepens in some places to more than 40 feet, and passes through precipitous banks; its width in this channel is about 80 feet; but this description does not hold correct for more than 3 or 4 miles, as the water changes both in depth and width frequently. There is no good land seen after leaving Lake Allumettes, until coming to Lake Talon, on the north shore of which there is a tract of good land. The same description of land extends several miles north-west of the Turtle Lake, but does not approach the Little River between these lakes.

From the south-west part of Turtle Lake, the route proceeds by a small creek, and at 240 yards, having passed through a small lake, (the water of which is turbid and of a reddish color) we made a portage of three-fourths of a mile in length, and crossed the height of land between the waters of Nipissing and the Little River. On the east of this portage the land is swaly, the highest part of which does not elevate more than 10 feet above the Turtle Lake; out of this swale the waters run in both directions by two small creeks, one of which (10 feet wide) we sailed down towards Lake Nipissing; at one mile this creek contracts in its channel so as not to admit a passage for canoes, in consequence of which a portage half a mile in length is made through meadow land. At the termination of this portage, the small creek we entered at the height of land, is joined by another 15 to 20 feet wide, and about 3 feet deep. From the height of land our course was southerly, but from the junction of these streams we bore south-westerly; at one mile further, there is a rapid making a descent of 8 or 10 feet, to avoid which a portage half a mile in length over swaly land is made; at the foot of this rapid it is again augmented by another branch, the entire now forming a channel about 40 feet wide, and 3 to 5 feet deep; its course continues nearly in the same direction, passing through low lands, timbered with balsam, tamarac, soft maple, and a few pine—banks of the river about 4 feet high, but lowering towards the Lake, and at one mile we came to Lake Nipissing, the depth of channel there is only three feet, passing over Granite Rock.

Canalling from the Turtle Lake to the last portage might readily be accomplished, as

scarcely any rock would be met by following the course of the streams just described, and which contain sufficient water for this purpose, and the banks of the last mile sailed down of river would require to be risen several feet, and a lock placed at the entrance of the lake. But the depth of water and rocky channel at this place appear an insuperable obstacle—the entrance of the harbour is also full of sunken rocks, and much exposed to all winds bearing between southwest and northwest. The distance from this place to the French River is about 25 miles, and if I may presume to judge from sailing through this lake, it does not appear a dangerous navigation, its water being deep—there are several large islands in the main body of the lake, and under the lee of which vessels in time of storm might readily find security.

The French river leaves Lake Nipissing at the westerly extremity of a long bay, and in which there are several rocky islands; this bay is sheltered from storms by its rocky margin. There are two rapids in the French River on the first mile after leaving Lake Nipissing, each about one-eighth mile in length, and having the same descent of about 10 feet. The second of these rapids flows through a chasm only 30 feet wide, below these rapids the river passes through a succession of lakes lined by rocky lands, and in which there are numerous deeply indented bays, and which cause the navigation of this river exceedingly critical to those persons unaccustomed with the proper channel. I encountered some difficulty in this respect myself.

Thirty miles from Lake Nipissing the river divides into three branches, and at which place it is about three feet above Lake Huron. The most easterly of these branches is narrow, shallow, and rocky in its channel, the Indian name for it is "Asindibisin," and signifies a river filled with rocks and shoals; its length is about 6 miles. The central branch is about the same length, and contains the principal body of water in the French River, and may average about 300 feet in width, and is free from sunken rocks or other obstructions, with the exception of a short rapid making a descent of 5 feet as already remarked. At this outlet there is a good harbour, it being well sheltered from storms by several small islands on the east and west, and one large island on the south, and is about 3 miles from the main land. The third and most westerly channel is about ten miles long, its size and appearance is somewhat similar to the Asindibisin one.—These three outlets embrace a front of about ten miles on Lake Huron, and no part of which is approachable by large vessels except the middle channel.

In addition to the routes now described, I explored several tributary streams, and for a description of which I beg to refer to my diary.