

work all the winter. I might just mention an incident that occurred when going up in the previous fall. I had three bark canoes, laden with provisions, blankets and cooking utensils, etc., and, as all voyageurs in bark canoes well know, had to stop at the foot of all portages going up, and carry everything across the portage to the head of the rapids. On this occasion the carrying distance was about a quarter of a mile, and for my part I took up the paddles and some other light things and proceeded over the portage. About halfway there was a rising ground, and on nearing the head there I met a large bear browsing on what are called "Labrador berries." This plant we often make tea of, and very good, too. However, Mr. Bear lifted up his head very leisurely and looked at me. I, being afraid to retreat, looked directly at him for about three minutes, when he turned round and walked slowly away, to my great satisfaction and relief. My canoe men in the meantime were busy arranging the goods to carry them over the portage on their backs.

I might add another incident. I had occasion to travel about twelve miles along the York branch of the Madawaska River on the ice, it being in the winter, and when nearing the head of a rapid there is a turn in the river. I noticed at this bend in the river, as I thought at the moment, about half a dozen of Indian dogs coming around the bend towards me, and expected to see the Indians every moment, as it is a very common thing when Indians are travelling to have their dogs with them. After a few minutes I thought it strange that no Indians were making an appearance, when immediately I heard a noise behind me, and a deer was coming full run right in my tracks, and after it three or four wolves. The deer came to within about twenty feet of me, when it made a sudden bound off the river and into the woods (the river being only about three rods wide) and the wolves after it, accompanied by those I first saw. I then saw through the wolf arrangement. Those which I thought were Indian dogs at first were wolves, showing that a pack of wolves starting a deer back in the woods they will divide themselves, and one-half will run to the adjacent rapids on the river, and the other half will run the deer to the river, where they are sure to meet and the deer is killed at once. When a deer is hunted it is sure to make for the nearest rapids: I was quite alone and had no weapon except a small hand axe in my belt, with which I was determined, if attacked, to fight to the last. But all the wolves pursued the poor deer and left me, I suppose, for a more convenient time. Then I made my way with all speed, about one mile more, to where my men were at work clearing out a line, and so escaped being killed by the wolves.

These incidents, though not coming exactly under the head of surveying, show some of the risks, dangers and difficulties that are to be met with, and so I thought it proper to mention them. But I have diverged from my canoe trip so much that I must now return. Our canoe-loading being all carried to the head of the portage, we got the canoes loaded again and proceeded as before to our destination, where the surveying work commenced. The manner in which the surveys of lumbering limits were performed in those days was, for the limit to