

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWS

ALGONQUIN PARK THREATENED.

The News, Toronto, May 27th,
1910.

"Owing to the tremendous value to Ontario as a future asset to attract tourists, every human and legal effort should be made to preserve Algonquin Park inviolate. Expropriation proceedings should be initiated and an injunction taken out as rapidly as possible to prevent further devastation until the question is settled one way or the other."

Dr. Murray McFarlane, Toronto, thus expressed himself to The News reported this morning in urging stringent measures to stay the axe of the woodman who is rapidly defacing the beauty of that great preserve. He has just returned from the park and reports that the lumbermen are beginning to cut the hardwood on Cache Lake, at the rangers headquarters, where the hotel is situated, threatening to transform what he considers one of the greatest beauty spots on the continent into a scene of desolation. Dr. McFarlane says Mr. Cochrane, the Minister of Mines, Lands and Forests, is personally desirous of saving to transform what he considers fronted by old licenses held by the lumbermen.

A National Park.

"Some years ago," continued the doctor, "the late Hon. Mr. Hardy, when Premier, having in view the interests of posterity, set aside as a national park for the people of Ontario, a big area north of Muskoka, practically 30 miles square, covered by almost virgin forests, and containing over 1,500 lakes embodying some of the most magnificent scenery in America, the intention being to preserve some of the head waters of the rivers which take their rise in that region, such as the Madawaska and others, and make a game preserve where all wild animals of a harmless nature might find sanctuary. As a proof of the success of the latter venture Dr. McFarlane has frequently seen as many as 20 deer in a day. The beaver have multiplied so rapidly it has been necessary to kill a certain number of them to prevent too great an increase. Fishing is permitted by taking out a license costing \$1.00. The lakes teem with gray and speckled trout, and the black bass placed by the Government in Cache Lake some years since have multiplied so rapidly that the lake promises to rival in fishing privileges the great Kawartha waters.

A National Paradise.

"It is a strange feature showing the apathy of our Ontario people that twenty Americans enter the park for every Canadian and go into raptures over its beauty. Situated immediately behind Muskoka where Toronto and other people go in thousands, and put up with all sorts of inferior accommodation, Algonquin Park remains practically unvisited except by Americans. This state of affairs is, however, being rapidly changed by the efforts of the Grand Trunk Railway in erecting a splendid hotel at Cache Lake, where guides and outfits can be had, making it possible for tourists to take trips varying from one day upwards in this glorious scene of sylvan beauty. The Government was fortunate in having services of such a lover of nature as Mr. Bartlett, superintendent of the Park, a clever, capable Englishman, absolutely devoted to the Park, and utterly unbiased by political affiliations. Often with staff undermanned and incapable he performed prodigies of work with insufficient backing from the various governments, Liberal and Conservative. Under Mr. Cochrane's regime, however, things have been assuming a more promising look, but with the lumbermen cutting the timber, in view of

the hotel and railway station where first impressions would deter any passing tourist. It seems as if the good work of years would be nullified unless very urgent steps are taken to put a stop to this most gross vandalism."

A View Unsurpassed.

Dr. McFarlane, who has seen most of the great forests of the world, considers that the view from Sky-mound on Cache Lake is unsurpassed. When Mr. Hardy set apart this land, he permitted the cutting of pine according to lumbermen's contract, but withdrew the hardwood. After his death the lumbermen commenced to cut birch, but were promptly stopped by Superintendent Bartlett. Later on the lumbermen waited upon the Ross Government in its last moments, and succeeded in having all the hardwood thrown back into their hands with twenty to thirty years in which to cut it, thus leaving the bare rocks and water for the people to enjoy as a park. The owner of one of the large limits has lately sold out to an Orillia company who is doing the present cutting.

"Mr. Cochrane has, I believe," said Dr. McFarlane, "been conducting negotiations, but finds that they are asking prohibitive prices for conciliation of their lease, or demanding a quid pro quo in the shape of pine elsewhere in Ontario to the value of about \$500,000, which is very much more than the Government feels would be a proper recompense."

A Lesson From Maine.

Dr. McFarlane believes that Ontario must take a lesson from Maine, which now receives annually millions of dollars from tourists who spend \$150 per capita while visiting the woods and rivers of that State in pursuit of game and fish. In 1867 a commission appointed by the State reported no moose, few deer and practically no fish in the rivers and lakes. The settlers were appealed to from the standpoint of self-interest to do everything to prevent any further slaughter of the denizens of the wild, with the result that Maine is to-day one of the best hunting and fishing countries in North America. The people of Ontario did not realize for a minute the glory and beauty of Algonquin Park, and no man could ever say that he had seen Ontario unless he visited the park before its beauty is destroyed.

"I think every public spirited citizen of Ontario," he added, "should appeal at once to the member of the Legislature for his district, to use his influence in having the beauty of Algonquin Park preserved unimpaired to posterity."

Concluding, Dr. McFarlane believed the Government could make the park self-supporting by cutting paths in different directions, and by the removal of over-ripe timber. This would make an excellent school for experiments in practical forestry.

"News," Toronto, Ont., May 27, 1910.

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY.

By Ulster Pat.

In the New Zealand Outlook I find an article, the writer of which advocates the substitution of wholesome methods of stimulation for whisky, tobacco, and other harmful stimulants. He argues that stimulant "is, of itself, an entirely natural, nay, a necessary thing." He quotes the Greek games and sacrifices as "a hint for ourselves," and in order to induce the young people—now swarming into the towns—to remain on the farm, he proposes to "introduce among our rural population something that would recall the grace and beauty of the old Greek festival," and asks "Are the achievements of rustic Ober Ammergau impossible to

our people; and if so, why?" "The countryside needs not only to be occupied, but to be intellectualised; to have its stagnant life stirred and made worth living." Mr. Editor, if this had appeared in one of those newspapers which devote pages of space daily to "sports, music, and the drama," well, I should not have read it, so there is no need to say how little it might have affected me. But in "a Christian weekly for the home," it is said to find a professedly Christian teacher commending not alone the drama, but even that brutalizing blasphemous Passion play, wherein the sufferings of the Saviour in paying the penalty of sin are made a spectacle for the entertainment of the unthinking multitude. This is held up as an "achievement" worthy of emulation—a means of intellectualising the people, and of making "life worth living!" There was a wise man and preacher long since at Jerusalem who attempted to solve by his own wisdom—and it was greater than that of the writer in the Outlook—the problem of rendering "life worth living," with mirth and pleasure. He says: "I searched in mine heart how to cheer my flesh. . . . mine heart yet holding its course with wisdom. . . . till I might see what it was good for the sons of men that they should do under the heaven. . . . I got me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, and whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them: I withheld not mine heart from any joy. . . . and behold all was vanity and a striving after wind. . . . Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly as far as light excelleth darkness. . . . For to the man that pleaseth him, God giveth wisdom and knowledge and joy." "Fear God and keep his commandments." "This is the way" to stir stagnant lives and make them worth living. "Walk ye in it."

SUMMER CRUISES IN NORTHERN SEAS.

In connection with the inauguration of the Grand Trunk Pacific steamships on the Pacific coast on June 12th, the company has issued a very handsome and interesting booklet describing the new boats and the scenic grandeur of the trip from Seattle, Victoria or Vancouver to Prince Rupert.

There are thirty-two pages of text matter, full of information and new material, carefully prepared after a recent trip over the route. The publication is profusely illustrated with Grand Trunk plates made from direct photographs, and include pictures of the new boats, scenes in Seattle, Victoria, Vancouver and Prince Rupert, forest scenes on Vancouver Island, Indian villages on the route, pictures of the majestic scenery of the inside channel, and a series of beautiful scenes on the Skeena river. In addition, there are diagrams of the steamships and a new and complete map of the North Pacific coast, showing in a clear way the steamship route.

The cover of the booklet is a striking one, printed in four colors. Copies of this publication can be had free on application to J. Quinlan, D.P.A., Montreal.

Paul, as an apostle of Jesus Christ, had no doubt as to the truth of his message, and no fear of personal harm interfered with his freedom in the utterance of it. These are characteristics of the true succession in this our day.

When it is said that all things work together for good to them that love God, the sorest trials are included in the wide-sweeping promise. The faith that claims such a promise as this is itself a blessing beyond description.