

REPORT OF A MISSIONARY TOUR IN THE MUSKOKA DISTRICT BY THE REV. D. B. CAMERON, OF BRADFORD.

I left home on the 15th August, and arrived at Orillia at one o'clock p.m. Here I spent an agreeable and profitable evening with the Rev. John Gray and his family. Next day I was joined at Orillia by the Rev. W. Reid, A. M., of Toronto, who was to visit a mission station at the head of Lake Rosseau, with a view of preaching and administering ordinances on the next Sabbath. From Orillia we proceeded by the small propellor "Carriella," which runs to Washago, at the north end of Lake Couchiching. At Washago we took stage to Gravenhurst, near the head of Lake Muskoka. The land between these lakes does not appear to be of any value. The district consists of a series of ridges of metamorphic rock, covered by a few inches of soil composed of decayed vegetable matter, much of which is already burnt away by the fire that lately passed over the place. The soil in the hollows between the ridges is unfitted for the successful cultivation of wheat or any other cereal crops, as it consists of light sand and gravel.

On our arrival at Gravenhurst, I was met by Mr. Luke Henderson, the Missionary who labored there and at South Falls during the summer, and accompanied him to his boarding house, where I stayed till the following Tuesday. Mr. Reid remained at the Hotel, and proceeded next day to his destination.

On the 17th I visited several families and gave them notice of a sermon in the usual meeting place on the following evening.

Next day I visited a few more families, and preached at six o'clock, p.m. After divine service Messrs. Joseph Telford and James Douglass were elected as elders.

On Sabbath I preached in the same place at eleven o'clock a. m., inducted Mr. Telford who was an ordained elder in the English Presbyterian Church before he came to Canada, and ordained Mr. Douglass. Thereafter I dispensed the Lords' Supper to ten communicants.

This station seems to be in a promising spiritual condition. The earnestness with which they listened to the word of God seems to indicate that God has blessed the labors of Mr. Henderson.

In the afternoon I was kindly conveyed by Mr. Dugald Brown, of Brown's Hotel, to South Falls and back free of charge. At this station I preached to thirty persons, baptized a child, and dispensed the Lord's Supper to about twelve individuals.

22nd. I proceeded to Bracebridge by steamer on Lake Muskoka. This is one of the most beautiful of our small Canadian lakes. Though its water is not so clear as that of Lake Couchiching, its rugged shores, its rocky promontories, and its pine-covered islands give it a peculiar charm. Here one can admire the works of God in their grand simplicity.

On the 24th, in company with Mr. Williams, the missionary who labored at Bracebridge and its neighborhood, I walked to the Township of Monck, some six or seven miles and preached next morning in the usual place of meeting at 9 o'clock. Notwithstanding the early hour, there were forty persons assembled, the most of whom came a considerable distance. After sermon I organized the station; five managers were appointed, and Mr. Angus Black was elected as an elder. The people cheerfully promised to contribute fifty dollars next year to support a missionary; they will pay half his board besides.