

people have no taxes, no politics, no schools; all these blessings, no doubt, will be theirs in time.

It is easy to get a large canoe and go up the river to one of the beautiful lakes that form part of it. These are of small width and great depth of water. The banks are of steep and dun-coloured granite. Here in these dense shades of impenetrable verdure—here, where even the lumberman never comes—all is desolate as when Champlain found it; desolate as it was, before civilization commenced with the first savage who invented a stone-hatchet; as it has continued since the mysterious era when life began, when the first fish shot through these dark waters, when the first wolf howled for food within these forest solitudes.

Mattawa will always be a *dépôt* for the lumber trade, and probably, as the shanties move farther on, may to some extent take the place of Pembroke, and a more distant Ultima Thule, that of Mattawa. The streets are irregular, blocked with huge granite or gneiss boulders, causes of stumbling and offence to man and beast. But there are several merchants with good supply of wares, who certainly have no reason to complain of hard times.

Mattawa is the nearest to civilization of the Hudson's Bay Company forts. We were shown their stores, where are treasured a goodly stock of valuable furs and skins, from that of the silver fox, most rare and valuable of all, to those of the mink, lynx, and muskrat. The supply of furs, we were informed by the Company's agent, is at present very great. This is because of the thriftlessness of the present race of the young Indians, who kill the animals required for breeding. He thought the fur-trade was not likely to last above a century as a traffic on any considerable scale. The Indians too, he thought, were not likely to last much longer. In former times the Hudson's Bay Company would not traffic with them for liquor; but now all sorts of unprincipled traders bring the fire-water for which the Indian hunters are sure to keep up the demand—till death enforces prohibition.

From its far-away sources in the chain of lakes and swamps which feed also the Saguenay, the St. Maurice and the Gatineau, the Ottawa comes, bringing through the deep waters of Lake Temiscamingue the spoils of great forests of pine, which for years to come will keep up the supply of those vast rafts of spars, logs and timber, which have been meeting us all the way from Quebec. The Pacific Railway from Mattawa will continue its construction westward by the old Trapper's route, past Lake Nipissing and north of the inland seas of Huron and Superior.