

they fell into the hands of the executioner sitting in the stern, who paused a moment in his paddling, to still their floppings by a couple of blows from a piece of iron, which, if it missed his fingers, was pretty sure to accomplish its object upon the luckless trout.

The big brown lode which came down to the water from a northwesterly direction is rich in iron ore, some of the specimens obtained showed a percentage of half ore; much of it running up to sixty-five per cent. of pure metallic iron. So many rich veins of this metal have been found in this region lately that a little iron boon has set in, and mining locations are being taken up on every side. To show what a future there is ahead of the iron industry and the railway that is now tapping it, it may be said that an American railway which tapped the same range much nearer Duluth, increased its earnings from \$134,000 in 1884 (the first year of its existence) to \$886,000 in 1889 and to about \$1,250,000 in 1891. This is an indication of what the P.A.D. & W. R. has ahead of it when the this main line is constructed through the iron range.

An American authority who has been over the two lakes North and Gunflint, caught a number of what he pronounced to be the real land-locked salmon; they

are lighter in color than the mountain trout. On our return trip we caught three more trout and a pike. But time was too precious to dally on the way. When the boats had gathered at the tug once more, after a couple of hours cruise, a count showed that thirty mountain trout, salmon and pike had been caught. The return trip on the tug yielded half a dozen more, making in all over one hundred pounds of trout, salmon and pike of the largest size.

The principal part of the construction work now lies along the shores of North and Gunflint lakes and the blasting of rock has made the fish shy. They seek the deep water and do not bite so readily while the work continues. At the engineer's camp, pitched near the principal construction village of tents and shanties, a dinner was provided for us that was a triumph of cooking skill in the wilderness. In addition to the ordinary dishes of meat and fish, cakes pies and preserves garnished the board. And there was, never a better jury to decide upon the merits of a meal.

The railway work here consists of a large earth and rock cut, also a long fill. Between four and five hundred men are now strung along the five miles of work fully under way, and the five more just



The return of the spies.