

YACHTING

Yachting in Cape Breton

By F. W. BALDWIN, B.Sc.

Commodore of the Bras d'Or Yacht Club.

Cape Breton offers such a varied assortment of advantages for yachting that it is difficult to know which of its many good points would appeal most strongly to one who contemplates a cruise in these waters.

Sailing to suit all tastes is to be found here within a few miles. Anything from deep sea sailing on the board Atlantic to the almost indoor variety on the well sheltered bays of the salt water lakes.

The outside coast of Cape Breton is extremely variable in character. On the southern side near Isle Madame it is rather flat but by no means uninteresting as there are many harbors, and Lennox Passage—the narrow and winding channel between Isle Madame and the mainland is full of pretty scenery and well worth the trouble of its navigation, which is somewhat tedious if the wind should happen to be ahead.

From St. Peters Bay to Gabarus and Louisburg the coast is forbidding and uninteresting and has no harbors for a keel boat which is of course the only safe type for these waters.

North of Louisburg and Scattered Island there are plenty of harbors but the shore line is rather monotonous as far as Sydney with the notable exception of Mira Bay and

As a marked contrast to this outside work the Bras d'Or Lakes offer a cruising ground of an entirely different character where the anchor may be dropped and the yacht smuggled up for the night almost wherever one happens to be.

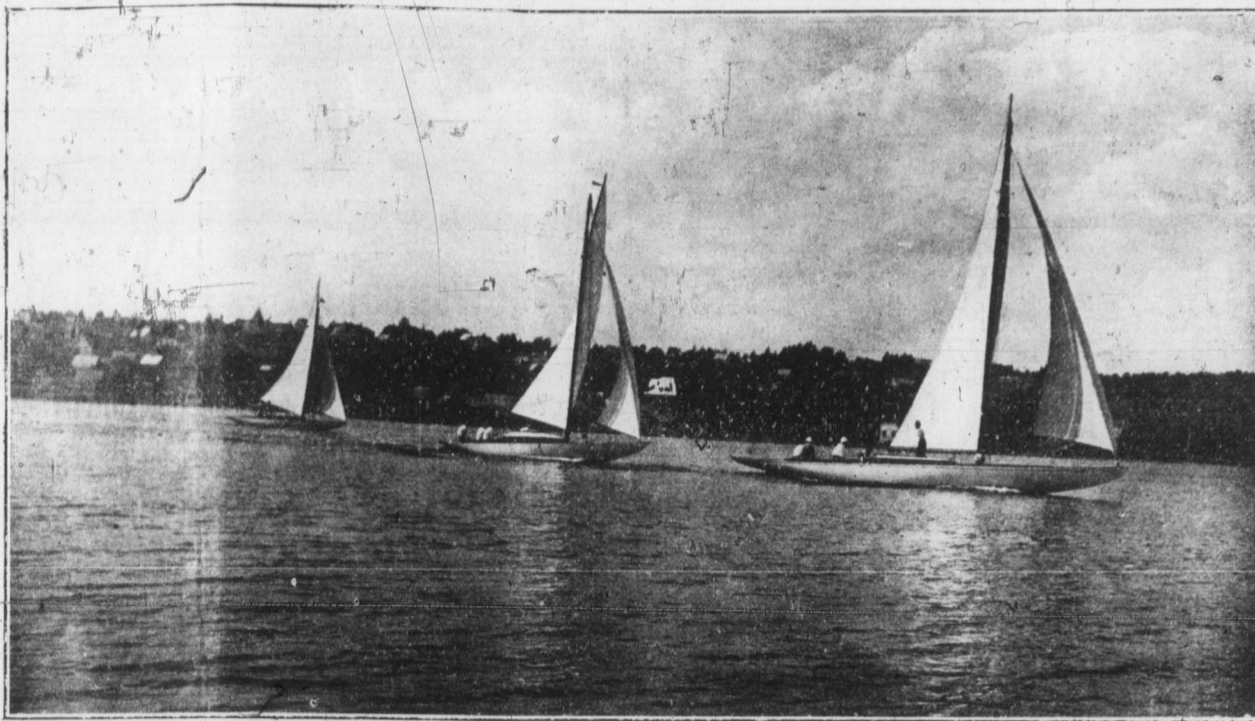
Although these lakes are landlocked except for the narrow entrances, there are plenty of stretches open enough to provide good sailing for large yachts.

The area of the lakes is almost 450 square miles with nearly 600 miles of ever changing and delightful shore line. For the most part the banks are bold and irregular abounding in bays and coves which provide good holding ground and secure shelter at almost every turn.

Unlike most places where harbors are plentiful the water is deep and remarkably free from shoals and reefs so that it is possible to explore its narrow and fiord-like channels in a deep keel boat without fear of grounding. A 90 foot schooner or a sailing canoe can nearly always find suitable conditions as open water or sheltered bays and equally available practically side by side in almost any part of the lakes.

In anything short of a large sized pilot book it would be im-

RACING ON BADDECK HARBOR



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and not the exception even when it is thick as mud outside.

Another advantage which the Bras d'Or Lakes have over outside water is the absence of tides and all its inconveniences. The entrances to the lakes are so small relatively to the enclosed body of water that the rise and fall is hardly noticeable and is much more influenced by the direction of the wind than the lunar tides.

There are four yacht clubs in Cape Breton Island. The Royal Cape Breton Yacht Club, Sydney; Northern Yacht Club, North Sydney; Louisburg Yacht Club and the Bras d'Or Yacht Club, Baddeck. These clubs form the Cape Breton Yacht racing Association which promotes and controls inter-club racing and arranges for the annual cruise with the races held under the auspices of each individual club.

The annual regatta at Baddeck is always especially well attended partly due to the cruising possibilities in the immediate vicinity and partly to the exceptionally fine racing courses—a fifteen mile triangle on the Little Bras d'Or Lake. This course which is admittedly the best in Nova Scotia and one of the best to be found in America is becoming more popular every year.

"Q," "R," and "S" classes are always well represented in these races and it is expected that a new one design class of sailing dingys will do much to increase the interest in small boat sailing.

Anyone bringing a small boat to Cape Breton can be sure of getting some very keen racing and a hearty welcome from one and all of the yacht clubs.

Whether one seeks "The sea the sea, the open sea" and the zest of an occasional dusting from "The ever free" or the opportunity to loaf complacently on a houseboat well sheltered amidst beautiful surroundings it is hard to imagine a more ideal spot for an outing than the quaint old Island of Cape Breton.

SHOOTING

It is only in the northerly sections of Inverness and Victoria counties that caribou may be hunted, the open season being from September 15th to October 15th. A drive of 20 to 28 miles from Baddeck to North East Margaree will take the sportsman to good hunting territory, and competent guides will be found at Ingraham's and at Big Intervale. All through Cape Breton there is good shooting in the early fall for partridge, duck and geese, and in some sections there are excellent covers for woodcock.

An Outing in Cape Breton

By MICMAC,

In "Rod and Gun in Canada."

Feeling the need of a complete rest and change from the strenuousness of a large city I suggested to my wife that we take a trip to the Maritime Provinces and spend our four week's vacation there, becoming acquainted with the fishing pools of the famous Margaree River on Cape Breton Island.

We left New York on September second by S. S. Florizel, Red Cross Line, and arrived at Halifax on September fourth which we quitted the same evening at 5 p. m. by Intercolonial. At 5 a. m. on the following morning we detrained at a desolate station, Grand Narrows, and in the chill morning air made our way to the hotel. After repeated ringings of the bell a drowsy porter in pyjamas answered our call. We were nearly frozen and when we learned that there was no prospect of a hot cup of coffee before the usual breakfast hour at 7.30, rather than risk a wait inside we took a brisk walk outside to keep up our circulation, meantime consoling ourselves with the reflection that the next time we took this trip we would continue on the train until Sydney had been reached. It is possible to have a comfortable breakfast at Sydney and still have ample time in which to return to Grand Narrows and catch the S. S. Blue Hill for Baddeck.

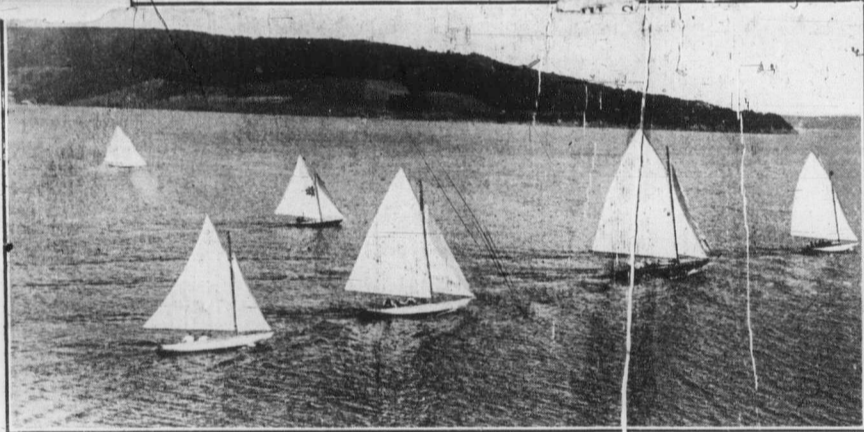
We crossed the beautiful Bras d'Or Lake on this steamship and registered at the Telegraph House, an hotel which has been made famous by Baddeck and That Sort of Thing written by Charles Dudley Warner thirty years ago. After a few days' rest in this charming little village which nes-

gles down on the shore of the lovely lake, we decided to take a team and guide and start out for Margaree. The road is a fairly good one and we arrived at Middle River, twelve miles distant from Baddeck, in time for dinner at the Riverside Inn. While waiting I fished a pool on the Middle River for trout with a four ounce rod. I tried "Dart," "Montreal," and then, Parmachene Bell and after casting about ten minutes I hooked—a salmon! He jumped clear of the water six times. I had no gaff or net so worked him down to the lower end of the pool where the bank slopes into the water and tried to drag him out on to the shore. As he touched the stony beach the hook came out and he lay for a moment in two inches of water. I jumped over him into the shallow water and threw him on the shore. This was said to be the first time that a salmon was ever landed in the Middle River with a hook and line.

We left for Margaree after dinner, the drive there being a very beautiful one. When nearing our destination we passed a chain of three lakes called Lakes O'Law. The mountains rising up beyond these hills are precipitous and grand, clothed for the most part with spruce and fir bal-am. When coming in to the north-east of Margaree the view is well worthy of a trip to the locality. The river runs through a level valley which spreads out fan-like to the hills which in circular form shelter it on every side. This is considered to be one of the most romantic spots to be found in Nova Scotia.

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The Annual Regatta at Baddeck

Mira River which is one of the most beautiful parts of the Island but difficult to get at from the sea as there is no anchorage off it and the river is only navigable for small boats.

From Sydney to Cape North every bit of the coast is picturesque with strikingly bold headlands and steep cliffs which stand right up from the sea. As might be expected from the precipitous nature of this part of the coast the water is deep right up to the shore and there are no outlying dangers. The hills vary from 800 to 1400 in feet in height and are for the most part well covered with timber.

Little Bras d'Or, Big Bras d'Or, St. Annes, Ingonish and Neils Harbor all afforded good shelter and are not far apart, about twenty miles between St. Annes and Ingonish being the longest jump.

Neils Harbor is the most northerly one where the anchorage is really safe.

To double Cape North and follow the western coast down to the Gut of Canso thus circumnavigating the Island involves some real outside cruising as the harbors are few and far between.

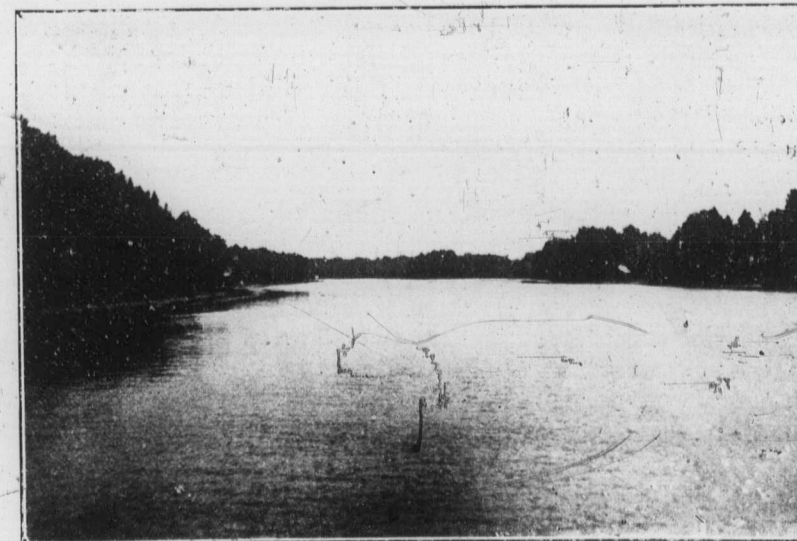
possible to describe the many pleasant cruises which could be taken within the lakes.

As an example taking Baddeck as a starting point there are ten different harbors in four generally different directions with in easy reach for an afternoon's sail. Each one of them provides absolutely secure shelter and good holding ground for anything from an American cup boat to a sailing dingy.

On these expeditions fishing in the summer and hunting in the fall can easily be combined with cruising as several excellent trout streams empty into the lakes and there is fairly good duck shooting in some of the bays.

Nova Scotia has a bad name for fog. Off the south east coast a south or southeast summer wind is very likely to bring thick weather with it, but this condition does not hold true on the lakes due to the strip of land over which the south or south west winds have to pass before reaching the lakes. This passage over the land deprives the air of so much of its moisture that there is rarely enough water vapor left to condense on reaching the lakes. Clear bright weather is the rule

AN ARM OF THE BRAS D'OR



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