

But time was precious and we could not stay to enjoy the beauties of Lake Nipissing.

It had been decided that the canoes should be launched at the head of Trout Lake or Turtle Lake as it is sometimes called, and in a short time they were packed on a waggon with the rest of the outfit and *en route* for that point. The usual course taken from Lake Nipissing by voyageurs is by way of the Vase River, but this distance is five miles with three portages—one round a fall of twenty feet—while by the waggon road from North Bay the distance is not much over three miles.

Arrived at the head of Trout Lake, Camp No. 1 was soon pitched and we proceeded to take in the surroundings.

Upper Trout Lake looked a charming little sheet of glass, eight and a half miles long, with an average breadth of about one mile, dotted with heavily timbered islands. It is hidden away among hills covered with semi-hardwood bush, chiefly maple, birch and hemlock, the light and dark shades of which patched here and there with the bright crimson of autumn's paint brush looked very pretty. The lake has three peculiar features—about two miles from its head a narrow peninsula juts out from the north shore and practically divides it into two parts. This peninsula is four miles long, and is so narrow in places that you can see either sheet of water from the other.

The second feature that I allude to, is situated at the lower extremity of the lake near its exit. Here the width is about a quarter of a mile and at regular intervals across this space, with the exception of about forty or fifty yards near the south shore, nature has placed large boulders, whose tops jutting out above the water create the impression that in olden days they were used by giants for the purpose of crossing from one side to the other with, as is generally the case, a big jump at the last, and this appearance has no doubt suggested the name they bear—"The Stepping Stones." The third peculiarity is the exit of the lake, or rather the channel that connects it with Lower Trout Lake. This channel is at the highest water no wider than twenty-five or thirty feet, but at the time we passed through was only three feet in width, and so shallow that it was found necessary to remove some stones to let the canoes pass. To return to camp. The first afternoon