

countless nooks and harbors. The rugged, rocky shores are in many places relieved by smooth stretches of sandy beach, allowing of safe bathing for the most timid and inexperienced.

Muskoka has a charm of its own; it possesses an individuality that is unique, its scenery is most varied; its atmosphere invigorating, bracing, health-renewing.

One of the most noteworthy characteristics of this region is the entire freedom from MALARIA experienced even by the most acute sufferers from this malady. This is due to many causes—its great elevation above the level of Lake Ontario, the balsamic odor of the surrounding forests of pine, cedar and balsam, and freedom from damp, owing to the rocky nature of the country.

It is significant in this connection that the name Muskoka is supposed by some to be derived from an Indian word "Mus-quo-tah," signifying "Red Ground;" others claim its derivation from an Indian word meaning "Clear-Sky-Land," and some again give the credit to the famous Missisaga chief, "Mesquo-okee," who was wont to repair to this part of the red man's domain for his summer vacation. Even the poetic instinct of the untutored savage appreciated the beauty of this spot.

Muskoka is noted for the number and excellence of its hotels and boarding houses, of which there are in the neighborhood of thirty, at various intervals along the line of the steamboat route. The rates range from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day, and the accommodation is all that can be desired or expected for this class of business (see hotel list, page 12).

Perhaps the most noticeable feature besides the hotels is the large number of summer cottages on the islands or on points of the



Gibraltar — Muskoka Lakes.

mainland. They are largely occupied and owned by Toronto and Hamilton citizens, and also by citizens of the United States.

Gravenhurst, it is worthy of mention, has been chosen as the site for the new Consumptive Sanitarium, after long and careful deliberations and tests by medical experts of various places throughout the Dominion and United States. This decision is of itself a

sufficient recommendation to all those troubled with asthma and lung complaints to seek this health-giving region for recuperation.

To those who do not know Muskoka, and to whom even Ontario itself, with its busy cities and network of railways, is but a place on the map of Canada, our northern regions are associated in their minds with snow and ice and rough, inclement weather: in fact,



A Typical Hunting Scene in Muskoka District.

there is a prevailing impression among strangers that if Canada has a summer, it is very short, or that winter follows close on the heels of the regulation summer season. Those who only spend the dog days in Muskoka, miss some of the grandest foliage effects to be witnessed here in the fall months, when the varying tints of burnished gold and red of beech and maple, contrasting with the deep, cool green of pine and balsam, and set on fire, as it were, by the rays of a brilliant sun, burning from out a cloudless sky, produce a scene, the beauty of which defies the artist's pencil or the poet's pen to do more than suggest.

Violets have been gathered at Beaumaris on Christmas day and kept in full flower during Christmas week. Boating and fishing are at their best during August, September and October, and on many days in November the writer has rowed and paddled in summer costume.

To hunters it is a paradise, deer, bear, fox and partridge abounding, while the gamiest of trout and bass and the weightiest musk-nongee are the delight of all who tempt its waters with rod and line.

## MUSKOKA LAKES RESORTS.

The term Muskoka Lakes refers chiefly to the three fair sister lakes, *Muskoka*, *Rosseau* and *Joseph*. The sinuous shores of these three lakes form a coast line of hundreds of miles, with some four hundred beautiful islands studded with considerable regularity, thus affording adequate protection and shelter for the frailest canoe or rowboat. The lakes are traversed in all directions by the comfortable steamers of the Muskoka Navigation Company. Upwards of thirty-five hotels and boarding houses are regularly distributed along the lakes, and are quite accessible by the twice-daily steamers.

Any description of the Muskoka Lakes would be incomplete without referring to the splendid service given by the five fine steamers of the Muskoka Navigation Company. These boats, which make two trips daily in the season, are handsomely fitted up and equipped; a first-class meal is provided, so that no apprehension on