

AUTUMN ON THE UPPER OTTAWA.

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The following is an account of a canoe trip taken by myself and three friends last autumn. And now as to how we came to make this especial trip. Did you ever on a bright warm day go up to the summer-house on Parliament Hill and see the sun glistening on the river away beyond the Chaudiere Falls in a broad band of gold, lighting up the dark green of the cedars and balsams until they became a bright yellow, and giving to the distance a far away and enticing look that makes you wish you were there.

The result of thoughts such as these was a determination to make the trip between Ottawa and Nipissing by canoe, and the fact that some years ago I had been over a large portion of Champlain's route, viz., the Georgian Bay, the French River and Lake Nipissing, as far as South East Bay, only increased the desire and added to the determination to travel this other part of his journey.

In the Canoe Club I happened on a kindred spirit who had had similar longings and come to a similar determination. We soon found two others who were easily inspired with the desire for the delights and experiences of such a trip, and on the evening of the 10th of September last we left Ottawa for North Bay by the night train with two basswood canoes, the best part of three weeks' provisions, ammunition, fishing tackle, and all the rest of a sportsman's paraphernalia. As we had only three weeks' holiday we decided to make the trip down stream and our starting point Lake Nipissing.

We arrived at North Bay the next morning, and on stepping out of the car we stood spell bound for a few minutes and tried to take in the view. A vast sheet of water stretched away before us, all dotted with islands and indented with bays, and shaded blue, brown or slate colour according as the lake was deep or shoal, or as the clouds cast their reflection upon it; while away to the north could be seen the line where sky and water met. Truly Lake Nipissing is a beautiful sheet. It is surrounded at this end by gentle slopes covered in many places with large tracts of hardwood.