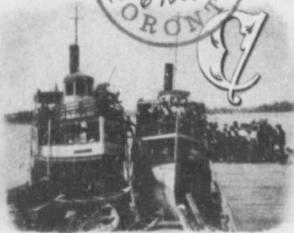


# THE KAWARTHA LAKES.



ANADA has waited patiently for the attention that is now being bestowed upon her, and it was simply a matter of educating the ever-increasing brotherhood of tourists to the magnificent summer resorts in her confines, and to the beautiful country in which are embedded the lovely inland lakes, of which so much has been said and written, and which lie in the Province of Ontario, north of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Each successive season has seen a phenomenal influx of visitors to the northern regions, which

are becoming more and more popular year by year, and the coming season will see a large increase over the last.

The Kawartha Lakes District is, comparatively speaking, little known to the summer tourist, and is at present patronized by a limited number of travelers who, when they have found a good thing, know how to enjoy it. The chain of lakes which comprise this region lies north of Peterborough and Lindsay, and is composed of Lakes Katchewanooka, Clear, Stony, Buckhorn, Chemong, Pigeon, Bald, Sturgeon, Cameron and Balsam, with a magnificent steamer route of 70 miles from Lake-

field to Coboconk. They are situated in the Counties of Victoria and Peterborough, and combine the wildest primeval granite mountain and forest scenery with lovely grassy, shrub- and vine-clad shores. Many of the lakes are dotted with islands, on which pretty and comfortable homes have been erected for their summer tenants, and throughout the chain the tourist is at no point remote from busy town or village, or humble cottage home, and yet is in comparative seclusion.

Toward the middle of September, 1615, Samuel de Champlain, having passed up the Ottawa, across to Lake Nipissing, down Georgian Bay and inland to Orillia, the chief seat of the Huron Indians, decided to lead that nation on a warlike expedition against the Iroquois of New York State. Accordingly the party, numbering about two hundred canoes, set out. They traversed Lake Couchiching and, quoting from Parkham, "The Huron fleet pursued its course along Lake Simcoe, across the 'portage' to Balsam and Sturgeon Lake, and down the chain of lakes which form the sources of the Trent River. As the long line of canoes moved on its way no human life was seen, no sign of friend or foe; yet, at times, to the fancy of Champlain, the borders of the stream seemed decked with groves and shrubbery by the hands of man, and the butternut trees, laced with grape-vines, seemed decorations for a pleasure-ground."

Lovely as were the "Kawartha Lakes" when nature displayed them to advantage before the enthusiastic glance of the soldier of Ivry and his Indian allies, yet, now, with all that nature then did, improved by the artistic hand of man, they are simply enchanting.

Travelers in Scotland, or readers of Sir Walter Scott's or other descriptive works of "The Bonnie Highlands," are not unfamiliar with the wild grandeur of the Scotch Lochs, and all this magnificence is reproduced within the compass of the Kawartha Lakes. The more the scenery is studied the more convinced one becomes that the charms which are spread out under a Canadian sky can vie with the most lovely which are scattered under distant climes. These lakes do not possess the awful grandeur of those of Switzerland, nor the cold ruggedness of some of

the Scotch Lochs; there is about them an inspiration more subdued and peaceful, while every point and island, every bay and headland, glows with a sweetly picturesque beauty. They possess a beauty of their own, a wildness, a surprise. Slowly threading a narrow passage, between verdure-laden islets, the rounding of a point will suddenly bring into view a broad expanse of water, whose continuous shores seem to have no outlet; but hidden behind some island or projecting headland will be found a passage leading through another labyrinth of beautiful scenery, and, just as further progress seems impossible, another miniature sea breaks on the view.

Rich in minerals, the whole region has recently become an extensive field for lovers of geological science. Each recurring season finds additional devotees clambering up and down, examining the mountains, hills and valleys, prospecting and testing for minerals, of which several rich deposits have been discovered.

Berries of various kinds have their attractions. The rocky regions are overgrown with them, and parties from frontier towns and cities make yearly visits to the "rocks," camping for "a few days' berry-picking." Raspberries, huckleberries, and cranberries abound, and it is not uncommon for ladies to bring their jars and do their preserving in the "Camp." Thus thrifty housewives turn a healthy pastime to profit.

Amateur photographers and botanists have also begun their inroads, and the click of the kodak is not unfamiliar to the quiet solitudes, or to the village and rustic beauties of these lovely spots.

Canoe and camping parties find here their beau-ideal of summer outing. Here are all the luxuries and pleasures of the most fashionable sea-board summer resorts, with far less cost; and if retirement be the desire, one can pitch the tent in solitude and enjoy life in



A Typical Scene on Stony Lake.

repose. Many from the United States and Canada have purchased retired, secluded sites along these waters, where neat cottages peep from the shrubbery. In summer months these are occupied by those who wish to escape the din and turmoil of the city and recuperate health and enjoy life to the utmost. The steam-launch, sail or rowboat and canoe may be discerned in numbers on almost every lake of this great chain throughout the season.

The great charms and advantages of the locality are rendering the "Kawartha Lakes" unsurpassed as summer resorts in Canada. Every variety of scenery, the calm pastoral of Sturgeon; the romantic rocky islands of Stony, with their deep shores; the fine bathing of Balsam and Cameron and the picturesque beauty of the lakes further north coupled with the unsurpassed fishing and shooting along the entire chain, lend to these waters an attraction and a charm.

Excellent Indian and white guides and cooks are found in Lindsay, Peterborough, Lakefield, Fenelon Falls, Coboconk, Bobcaygeon—in short, at all points along the route.

Though nearly three hundred years have elapsed since Champlain and his Huron war-party traversed these waters, yet, large and imposing as was the fleet of canoes which then rounded Sturgeon Point or sailed down Pigeon and Chemong Lakes, every evening in summer each of these lakes displays an enlivened scene. Canoes in scores, sailing craft, steam-launches, row-boats and passenger steamers, glide up and down the waters; their lights reflecting back those from cottages, hotels, tents and camp-fires on shore; and laughter and music and song lend additional charm to the captivating scene. If it be true that the spirits of the departed Indians nightly return to their former haunts, then, indeed, must their surprise be great during the summer season on the "Kawartha Lakes."

Owing to the high altitude of these lakes (600 feet above the level of Lake Ontario), the air is pure, and laden with health-giving and soothing balsamic odors from the pine and spruce-clad hills, it renews physical vigor, restores the nervous system,



On Stony Lake.



A Likely Spot for Bass.