

wide and (6) six feet high and open in front, and (4) four feet high at the back, warmed by a blazing log-heap. (Head's "Forest Scenes.")

Col. Head's slumbers, during the first night on Penetanguishene Bay were sound, probably from weariness and toil, though disturbed occasionally by the noise of jolly songs and laughter from the shipwrights' mess, huddled together under similar conditions not far away. In his "Forest Scenes" he tells us "his bed was made of spruce boughs spread on the ground, covered with a blanket and a sack of potatoes for his pillow"—far from luxurious surroundings for a Colonel of the British army so recently from the "old sod." He also gives us an amusing account of his attempts at making an improvised bedstead of four forked sticks driven in the ground across which poles were laid, tied and woven across back and forth and lengthwise with basswood bark; also his amateur efforts at learning to use the axe and cutting down trees. Next day, March 1st, towards evening his gang of Canadian axemen arrived from York (Toronto) and, like the others, built their temporary shelter before night. Early next morning operations for building the first Block-House, log-cutting and clearing, began, the site selected being "on top of the brow close above the bay," which a later authority places about two hundred yards from the shore and which would fix the location somewhere between the present site of the Asylum and that of the Medical Superintendent's residence. Its dimensions were to be twenty-one feet by eighteen, square roofed, shingled top and sides shear to the bottom, with split cedar shingles, obtained from cedar trees cut along the shore towards the north near what is known as "Gordon's Point." Seventy years later the moss-covered stumps of the same trees cut by these pioneers could still be seen. While the axemen were clearing away the forest and erecting houses and the various operations were in progress, a sudden thaw set in, followed by a sharp frost, covering the bay with a smooth surface of ice. Col. Head mounted on a pair of skates went over the glare ice and peered into almost every corner of the bay, which he reckoned at seven miles long and from two to three miles across, this, doubtless including both the outer and inner harbors. While on this exploration he discovered an Indian enveloped in a buffalo skin fishing through the ice, and his efforts to solve the mystery were somewhat dramatic and amusing. Like the storied riders of