

sikok Lake, and Deux Rivières Portage are in close proximity, the former thirty-six chains and the latter thirty in length. An intervening pond or lakelet is crossed in boats. Pine timber of large size and good quality is abundant about these portages, and, it is said, there are extensive groves of these woods inland.

#### STURGEON LAKE,

is navigable for a distance of seventeen miles between Deux Rivières and the Maligne, having been rendered so by means of a dam. At Island Portage, also, it is proposed to build a dam, a most important work, which, when completed, will raise the waters of the Maligne River to a height sufficient to make navigation of slack water between the dam last mentioned and Island Portage. At present there are some rapids and ripples which render it necessary to maintain a considerable force of voyageurs. When the dam above mentioned is completed, steam will be used here as upon all the other sections.

#### NEQUAQUON LAKE OR LAC LA CROIX

Island Portage above referred to is only fifty yards in length. Baggage is passed over it on a slide. Lac la Croix, a fine sheet of water studded with islands, is rapidly passed over by means of a tug and barge. The great new portage or, as it called, the Nequaquon, leading from Lac la Croix to Namuekan Lake, is three miles in length. By the opening of this portage, the long and difficult detour by the Loon River has been avoided, and full twenty miles in distance saved.

#### NAMUEKAN LAKE.

This is a fine sheet of water full of islands and on it a barge and tugs are always in readiness for the conveyance of passengers and freight between Nequaquon and Kettle Falls at the head of Rainy Lake.

The portage at Kettle Falls is short and the fall only eight feet. Arrived at

#### RAINY LAKE,

a handsome and powerful steamer is in readiness to carry passengers to Fort Francis, a distance of forty-seven miles. Rainy Lake is a fine sheet of water extending its arms far to the north and east and receiving numerous tributaries from various directions, the principle of which are Sturgeon River, the Seine and the Manitou. The aggregate area drained by these rivers is not short of fifty thousand square miles, and in many parts of this extensive region there are valuable forests of pine, which will, no doubt, prove inviting to the lumbermen, a class of pioneers who have hitherto shown themselves the most valuable in opening the wild lands of the Dominion to settlement.

#### FORT FRANCIS,

once a grand emporium of the fur trade and still the chief rendezvous of a powerful tribe of Indians, is, from its natural advantages, likely soon to become a place of great importance. The falls immediately in front of the Hudson Bay Company's Fort present unlimited water power and the ground is naturally well adapted for mill sites. Perhaps the day is not distant when these falls may rival the Chaudière on the Ottawa in the number of mills they set in motion.

#### RAINY RIVER.

From Fort Francis to the Lake of the Woods the navigation is unbroken, and on either side of this magnificent stream, the land is of a quality not to be surpassed, covered, in general, with heavy forests, but presenting in some places openings and cleared lands which had evidently been cultivated at some remote period. In these openings are occasional mounds, which, here as elsewhere, show the wide