

as the prevailing kinds of timber. Pine is scarce, yet there are some fine specimens both of the white and Norway pine. The land is well watered by numerous springs and creeks; swamps are seldom found, while the old laurentian formation of rock, crops out on almost every lot of land; but this rock is not deceptive to the agriculturist, as he may dig or plough close beside the visible rock without obstruction. Hunters report much good land north and east of Franklin and Chaffey. The extension of the Muskoka Road to form a junction with the Bobcaygeon Road, on the east of Franklin, would be a great boon to this section of country. To effect this, a petition, numerously signed, has been forwarded to Parliament. The influx of settlers to the vicinity of these Lakes during last summer has been very great, yet there is much good land to be given away. Preparations are being made for the erection of churches and mills next summer.

EARLY REMINISCENCES.

THE RICE QUARREL.

In the early settlement of Draper, three families resided together until they would have time to erect a separate house for each. One of the women had brought in a quantity of rice, which mysteriously disappeared little by little; and, after having been robbed of her entire package, she gave expression to her suspicion that one or other of the women must have been interfering with the same; this gave rise to a terrible quarrel, and made a wide breach in those three families; a separation took place, and considerable sensation was created.

After some time light was thrown upon the whole affair in the following manner:—one of the men cut down a hollow tree, and as he was cutting it up, you may judge his surprise as the rice came running out; the thief was at last detected; a naughty chip-monk or squirrel had found its way into the shanty, and as there happened to be a crack in the box which contained the rice, an entrance was effected, and little by little it removed the stock in order to complete its winter store, but the woodman's axe blasted its hopes, cleared the innocent, and shamed the quarrellers.