

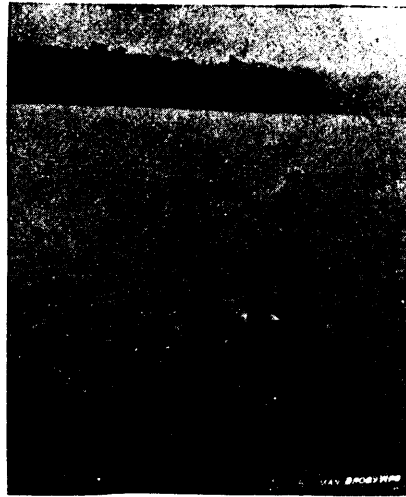
cataract, which rushes from a narrow channel of the lake into another arm of the Winnipeg river. Here the fishing is even better than at the first falls, a case being known to the writer where two fishers landed over fifty pounds of pickerel during one afternoon's sport. From the village of Norman on to Keewatin calls for another walk of over a mile over a romantic road, and then for a few cents a return to Rat Portage by a steam ferry can be made in half an hour's interesting sail.

But it is the different excursions by water which will most interest the pleasure seeker, and those are frequent during the entire summer season, and provided at a very small cost, the day's sail in any direction seldom exceeding one dollar a head of a fare. The trip from Rat Portage to Fort Francis on steamers equal to those of the great lakes, is a treat that no visitor who has any taste for romantic scenery should ever miss. Besides parties wishing to enjoy a more exclusive trip can, for a matter of fifteen to twenty dollars, hire one of the steam craft for the day and have ample accommodation thereon for twenty to thirty of a party. In fact every pleasure around the Lake of the Woods can be secured for a very small charge, compared with the exorbitant figures extorted at so many summer resorts.

This attractive lake has already become quite popular among those residents of Winnipeg who appreciate natural beauty; and who have learned by experience what a beneficial and complete change from the monotony of their prairie country in scenery, in climate and every other condition, is to be obtained on its wooded shores and islands. There are already around Rat Portage, Norman, Keewatin, on Coney Island and many smaller islands, a considerable number of summer houses—rustic, simple structures, surrounded by the romantic scenery, still in a primitive state, and unsullied by human hands; and such a scene as the camps shown in the accompanying illustrations is a common one during the hot months when the sidewalks of Winnipeg blister the feet, and working in a confined office enables one easily to realize the feelings of the victims of the Black Hole of Calcutta. Some individuals have purchased small islands, in which to erect their summer cottages; so that in the season they can feel that they are, if not quite, like Robinson Crusoe, monarchs of all they survey, at least the lords of their isles. When a person can secure that satisfaction, not to mention the other charms of this lovely retreat, by the outlay of two or three hundred dollars for an island, and about twice that amount for a sum-

mer cottage; it is certainly not an expensive luxury, and about the cheapest form of absolute monarchy obtainable. The trouble of boating back and forward for supplies is an additional charm to some, though, doubtless, to others it would be a drawback; and for these there are plenty of opportunities of securing good building lots, most charmingly situated on the shores of the lake, around Rat Portage, Norman or Keewatin.

It must be understood, of course, that it is not necessary to possess an island, a building lot, or a cottage in order to enjoy the pleasure of a sojourn by the lake. The unoccupied portions of the shores are open to anyone to pitch his tent where he pleases; or the visitor will find many cottages to rent. The usual prices of these are, for a 9x12 ft. cottage, \$12.00; for a three or four roomed house about \$45.00, for the season.



BATHING IN THE LAKE OF THE WOODS.

Islands can also be rented, and used for camping purposes.

It is true, as we have said, that a great many people already make use of this beautiful summer resort, but when its charms and advantages to those weary of the monotony of the prairie, are considered, as well as the inducements offered by the C. P. R. in the way of the smallest of small fares, the only wonder is that every resident of Manitoba who has a week, and a dollar or two to spare, during the hot months, does not instantly board the train for either Rat Portage, Norman, or Keewatin.

The visitor will find at all these places the very best of hotel accommodation. At Rat Portage, for instance, there are at least four hotels with every modern convenience, and equal in all respects to the best houses in the largest towns of Western Canada. The Hilliard house, presided over by Mr. Louis Hilliard, is a completely modern building, with accommodation for over 400 guests. This hotel, together with the Russell

House, on the other side of the street, and the Queen's, nearly next door, occupies the most central part of the town. The Hilliard House will be a surprise to any stranger to Rat Portage, who expects to find there only the usual country hotel. It is equal to the best of houses in large Eastern towns, and has all the conveniences and comforts of an up-to-date house. During the summer, things are exceedingly gay there, and twice a week, "hops" are given, at which not only the hotel guests, but also cottagers and campers from the neighboring islands are welcome. The bar and the billiard room are in the basement, while on the ground floor the "rotunda," is equal to a first-class club room. The house is steam heated and lighted by electricity. This house is now being further improved and extended to meet the requirements of the summer trade.

The Russell House is kept by Mr. E. Arnold, who came to Rat Portage about six years ago, from Manitou, in Southern Manitoba. There will be seen upon his walls a framed illuminated address from his old fellow-townsmen, which testifies his popularity in his former home. That he is equally popular and would be quite as much missed from Rat Portage, as he was from Manitou, is certain, and is no more than his due. When Mr. Arnold bought the Russell House, he refurnished it throughout, and made it in every respect first-class. It has sixty bed-rooms, comfortable parlors, a large dining-room, and first-class bar and billiard rooms. The table is first-class, like every other department of this comfortable house.

Although the two former houses are so large and commodious, such is the rapidly increasing popularity of Rat Portage as a summer resort, that Mr. W. G. Cameron saw the necessity for a third first class hotel, and accordingly bought the Queen's, which he thoroughly re-modelled, re-decorated, and furnished throughout with a taste and a lavishness that makes it from cellar to attic a completely comfortable, modern house. The visitor to Rat Portage will find in this hotel every thing as neat, clean and enjoyable as he could obtain in the largest and best of city hotels—beds that tempt sleep, a generous table, and cosy, luxurious parlors to read or write in during the day. Mr. Cameron has a fine steam yacht, which during the summer months plies on the Lake of the Woods for the accommodation of his guests.

Free buses meet every train from all of these hotels.

The Drewry house, owned by Mr. Geo. Drewry, president of the board of trade, is smaller than the above, but is fitted up with the elegance of a perfect home. In connection with it,