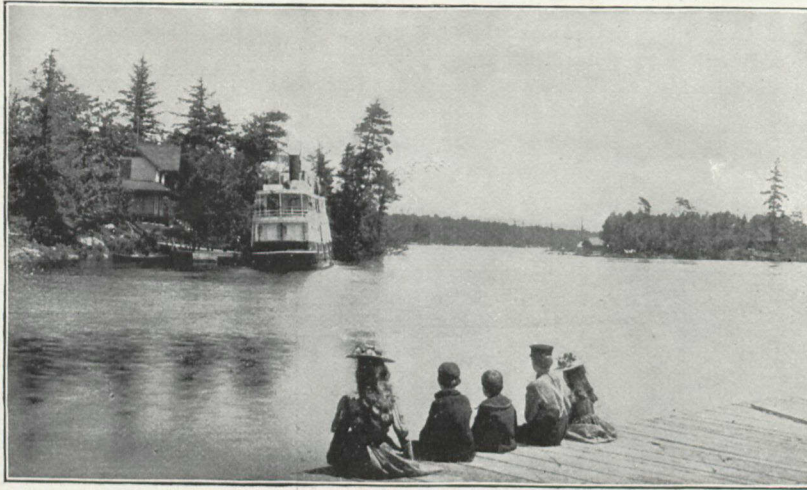


covered with thick growths of pine, balsam, cedar, beech, maple, oak, etc.

The shores of the lakes are deeply indented with bays and inlets, forming hundreds of miles of picturesque coast line, and



Scene on Muskoka Lakes, near Bala.

affording countless nooks and harbors. The rugged, rocky shores are in many places relieved by smooth stretches of sandy beach, allowing of safe bathing for the most timid and inexperienced.

Muskoka has a charm of its own; it possesses an individuality that is unique, its scenery is most varied; its atmosphere invigorating, bracing, health-renewing.

One of the most noteworthy characteristics of this region is the entire freedom from hay fever even by the most acute sufferers from this malady. This is due to many causes—its great elevation above the level of Lake Ontario, the balsamic odor of the surrounding forests of pine, cedar and balsam, and freedom from damp, owing to the rocky nature of the country.

It is significant in this connection that the name Muskoka is supposed by some to be derived from an Indian name, "Musquo-tah," signifying "red ground;" others claim its derivation from an Indian word meaning "clear-sky-land," and some again give the credit to the famous Missasaga chief, "Mesquo-okee," who was wont to repair to this part of the red man's domain for his summer vacation. Even the poetic instinct of the untutored savage appreciated the beauty of this spot.

The principal lakes, Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph, are united in an uninterrupted system of navigation of nearly fifty miles in a direct line. This, however, gives no adequate idea of the great extent of the indented coast lines, which embrace a distance of several hundreds of miles, and include upwards of four hundred islands. The waters of the Muskoka region are pure, soft, fresh, and wholesome, well adapted for bathing, and abounding in excellent fish, including salmon trout, bass, pickerel and white fish varieties. The lakes are traversed by daylight in all directions during the summer

months, by five commodious, well-appointed passenger steamers, which furnish comfortable passage and excellent meals at very moderate rates. Passengers are conveyed to Muskoka Wharf by an exceptionally

good railway service of the Grand Trunk Railway System, at low through and return excursion rates. All the different interests vie with each other in the pleasant duty of making strangers and others feel at home on the Muskoka trip, and while they sojourn in the district.

Many of the islands, on which have been erected handsome dwellings, are the private property of wealthy Canadians, but there are hundreds of choice little spots on which any party is at liberty to take up their abode for the season.

It is pleasing to note the goodwill which prevails during the summer season on these islands, where it is the custom for camping parties in the evening to pay visits to some sister island in their canoes, and where hospitality is sure to be extended. By the light of camp-fires, music and dancing bring to a close many a happy day.

The radiant and ceaseless loveliness of nature's ever-changing panorama is seldom more appreciated than in the midst of these lakes,

"counterchanged
with diamond plots of
dark and bright."

Is there anyone who, say after a long refreshing slumber in this pure atmosphere, could gaze unmoved upon the glories of the heavens as mirrored in these lakes? The sunbeams have driven far from the field aerial cloud-flocks—likened to the flocks of Admetus under Apollo's keeping—leaving the heavens iridescent with the morning's light.

Or, again at sunset, Nature seems to be exerting

her utmost to exhibit her manifold charms at the closing of the day, when the sun bathes the whole heavens in one mantle of crimson and gold; or, yet when the whole scene is hushed in the silence and calm of the night's stillness which invites tired Nature's sweet restorer—balmy sleep.

Removed, as it were, from the bustle and strife of life, and surrounded by a feeling of deep and tender isolation, the powers of contemplation are awakened, when presently from behind some dark cloud the moon will burst forth in all its glory, shedding its silvery halo over island and camp, over lake and river, as a glorious mantle of peace.

"Dark blue the deep sphere overhead,
Distinct with vivid stars inlaid,
Grew darker from the under flame;
So, leaping lightly from the boat
With silver anchor left afloat,
In marvel whence that glory came
Upon me, as in sleep I sank
In cool soft turf upon the bank."

The description of the scenic beauties of Canada has formed the theme upon which many a talented author has lavished his intellectual powers, and still the subject is not half exhausted.

The territory of the Dominion is so vast, its natural advantages so colossal—the material upon which to dilate passing before the vision as a vast train of meteoric splendor—that the most comprehensive narrative has failed to enfold within its pages more than a little of the charms which belong to Canada by right, and which will be acknowledged before she takes her place in the glorious future awaiting her in the Olympus of nations. The object of this brief description, is to point out some of the most famous hunting, fishing, and pleasure resorts, and to direct the attention of the tourist or sportsman in his selection of a summer trip.

How to procure supplies to best advantage is a serious matter. We insert a few clippings from the tourist publication of Michie & Company, of Toronto, the leading Canadian firm in this line:

"Our services are at the disposal of correspondents, for whom we cheerfully purchase household or tourist articles, or obtain and forward information.



A Typical Hunting Scene in Muskoka Lakes District.