

A VISIT TO THE TEMAGAMI RESERVE.

An opportunity of seeing some of the forest conditions and management in the Lake Temagami Reserve, in Northern Ontario, was recently afforded two prominent citizens of the Capital, in the persons of Major Chapleau, Clerk of the Senate, and Mr. Fred. Cook, a former Mayor of Ottawa, who were able to give a striking description of some conditions on the reserve and also made valuable suggestions as to the handling of the tourists and prospectors who visit the reserve, the latter class, at present, being very numerous, especially in the Miller Lake district.

The party started in from Latchford by the Montreal River by canoe, accompanied by two guides. From here they portaged for about two miles into Lake Anima Nipissing. After spending three days on this lake, they portaged through a chain of lakes into Red Squirrel Lake, "a beautiful sheet of water," as one of the party described it, "studded with islands and one of the prettiest lakes I ever saw, where, too, the fishing is excellent." It was here that the first smoke was encountered, and it was evident to the travellers that the fires were to the south of them. Up to this time the winds had been northerly or westerly, but as soon as the wind changed and began to blow from the south, the smoke was in evidence.

From Red Squirrel Lake the tourists passed over a very rough course (though it was supposed to be open water); on account of the extreme drought the water was very low, and the party had the greatest difficulty in finding their way into Sandy Inlet, the northerly arm of Lake Temagami. Then the travellers began to realize the vast extent of the fires to the south of them, for the smoke was so dense that they had practically to grope their way down the lake to Bear Island, where the headquarters of the forest rangers of the reserve are located, and where the Hudson Bay Company has a post. Here, in conformity with the regulations provided, the party registered their names and addresses, stating their object in visiting the park, whether business or pleasure, the proposed duration of their stay, the particular part of the park which they intended to visit and other particulars.

"The headquarters of the rangers in the reserve at Bear Island are centrally located," commented one of the visitors. "From this point it is an easy matter to branch out into any of the arms of the lake. When it is considered, however, that, on a close estimate, Lake Temagami has a coast line of 3,000 miles, it will be realized what a tremendous task the rangers have in