

Ottawa, by way of French River and Lake Nipissing. A decidedly independent young lady poet-artist, travelling to Mackinaw, employed her time in sketching when the assiduous attentions of two young university graduates permitted it. A prominent Toronto journalist, with a pitiful look of utter weariness in his eyes, came up with us in search of rest and recreation. When we saw him afterwards, three weeks' fishing and loafing at Spanish River and Thessalon had made a new man of him. But we may not enumerate even the half of the pleasant and entertaining acquaintanceships we made during the voyage.

At Sault Ste. Marie we inspected the great lock in the canal, watched some of our party running the rapids, and visited the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Industrial Homes for Indian boys and girls. From the Sault we ran down to Point St. Ignace and Mackinaw Island, making a short pilgrimage to the tomb of Père Marquette at the former place, and to the famous old fort at the latter. There are many other points of beauty and interest here, but these have been so often described that we shall pass them over.

Our return trip to Collingwood was under blue skies and fair weather, and altogether our summer in the Manitoulines passed very pleasantly.

SIGMA.

JOTTINGS ALONG THE C. P. R.

MOSQUITOES are the only insect plague of the Columbia Valley; there are no black flies, sand flies, horse-flies, or other objectionable winged creatures, and neither vermin nor snakes. The chief climatic peculiarity of the present season is its dryness. During the seven weeks I have spent in Donald there have been only two heavy showers, lasting three or four hours each; consequently, the dust has been at times several inches deep. The bush fires have grown and spread in all directions, destroying acres of valuable timber, and they must prove an incalculable loss to the country. The prevalence of smoke all through the mountain region has been a sad drawback both to tourists and residents in the enjoyment of the beautiful scenery between the Summit of the Rockies and the Coast; in many places it has hung over the valleys for weeks at a time, obscuring and blotting out the landscape like a thick veil, until dispersed by wind or rain. The effect of this about Donald was almost magical, and reminded me of the curtain rising on some gigantic transformation scene, as the smoke clouds would part and roll away over the tops of the mountains, revealing the magnificent peaks which enclose the Valley of the Columbia. As far as I have observed there is little or no wind in this district, and the quiet and silence of nature, without song of bird or rustle of leaf, are to me a most striking peculiarity of the region. There is a magnificent echo for miles along the valley, and the whistles of the locomotives may be heard at all hours of the day and night, rebounding through the rocky defiles and dying away in infinite distance.

I have seen only one mountain storm, which, strange to say, was rainless. It began on the gloomiest day of smoke, with a roaring noise in the Selkirk Range (to which we are nearest) like the report of cannon. This proved to be the crashing and uprooting of timber in some forest belt far up on the mountain side; about our house, however, the trees stood perfectly motionless, not a branch stirring. Twenty minutes later, however, the storm, or, fortunately for us, the edge of it, struck the valley, and the tall young pines and spruces bent like reeds, while clouds of dust and smoke rolled along veiling every object in a mysterious half-light. The trees about us were only partially cleared, and protected one another, but at a little distance off, on the edge of the high bank, where they were more exposed, some twenty or thirty were uprooted, one of them falling upon a house occupied by the Engineer of the C. P. R. and his family, but luckily doing no damage, as it was too close to the building to have gained any purchase in its descent and fell against a solid wall of logs, instead of crashing upon the roof. This small cyclone lasted about twenty minutes, and was followed by some hours of rain during the night.

There are several silver mines in the immediate neighbourhood of Donald awaiting development, as is the case with all the mineral resources of British Columbia at present, owing to the lack of capital in the country, but not to any want of enterprise, as numerous claims have been located and entered. "Placer" mining at the Columbia Lakes has been diligently prosecuted for some time past owing to the simple and inexpensive system employed to extract the gold dust, which is merely washed out of its gravelly bed in wooden troughs, through which a constant stream of water is led. The Chinamen have been particularly successful at this work, and have carried some thousands of dollars out of the country back to their native land.

The principal event during my residence in Donald was the visit of Sir John and Lady Macdonald to the town, on the 22nd of July, on their way

to the Pacific Coast. They arrived by a special train at two o'clock, Lady Macdonald creating an immense sensation, as the engine drew near the crowded platform, by her occupation of a well-cushioned seat immediately above the cow-catcher; she had made the whole trip from the Summit down the Kicking Horse Pass on this commanding post of observation, and subsequently continued her journey to Port Moody without any change of base (as they did not travel by night), a feat which will doubtless become historical. Sir John and Lady Macdonald spent only about half an hour at the station, just long enough to receive a handsomely engrossed address presented by Judge Vowell, Stipendiary Magistrate and Gold Commissioner of the Kootenay District, on behalf of the residents of Donald. As this document has not seen the light of day in the public press, owing to our remoteness from the centres of civilisation, and as it deals with some of the important features of the country, I will give it *verbatim* :—

DONALD, B. C., July 22, 1886.

To the Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald, G.C.B., etc., etc., etc.

SIR,—The people of this portion of Kootenay District have much pleasure in welcoming you to Donald, the first place of importance in British Columbia you reach in your journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific through Canadian territory.

It must be a great source of pleasure for you to travel over the Canadian Pacific Railway, which has been brought to completion with a speed unparalleled in the history of railway construction, owing almost entirely to the support this great enterprise has received from your Ministry, but more especially from yourself. This important work you are now viewing, and it alone would be a sufficient mark to distinguish the career of any statesman; but in your case it is only one of a large number of great public works which have resulted from your long and successful administration.

Until the railway reached this portion of British Columbia, it was impossible for settlers to come in, and the district was only occupied by a few enterprising miners, who endured hardships, privations, and dangers which it is hoped are now things of the past. We trust that one result of your visit will be the early opening up for settlement of the Dominion lands along the line of railway, in order that parties anxious to become settlers, and those already settled upon the soil, may have that feeling of security they require which can only be established by the granting of a title to the lands they occupy.

We hope and trust you have recovered entirely from your illness of last winter, and that your valuable services to Canada may be available for many years to come. We have also much pleasure in conveying to Lady Macdonald our hearty welcome to the Western Province of the Dominion, the threshold of which you have just crossed, and to wish both you and her a pleasant journey and a safe return to your eastern home.

Presented by

A. W. VOWELL, S.M.,
on behalf of the residents of Donald.

Sir John was also presented by the Gold Commissioner with a free Miner's License, bearing his name inscribed upon it in letters of gold, on the receipt of which he made a few appropriate and witty remarks to the effect that he was glad to find, in view of his advancing years, that he could still be a minor in British Columbia.

E. S.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

SOME concession has been made by the Ontario Legislature to the demand for "Women's Suffrage" by conferring the right to vote at Municipal Elections on widows and unmarried women. The right to vote at Parliamentary Elections has not yet been conceded, but may before many years; and in view of the discussions which occasionally take place, the following *résumé* of the law on the question by Mr. Thomas Hodgins, Q.C., in the second edition of his *Manual on Voters' Lists*, just published by Messrs. Carswell and Company, may be interesting.

In commenting on the statutory provision that "no woman shall be entitled to vote at any election," Mr. Hodgins observes: A woman, not being a "person" within the meaning of the Election Acts, cannot appeal to the courts from the decision of the Revising Barrister: *Wilson v. Salford*, L. R. 4 C. P. 398. All women having freehold, or no freehold, and men within the age of one and twenty years, are bound by Acts of Parliament, but are not parties to elections: 4 Coke's Inst. 5. Women, being under legal incapacity, have no common law right to vote at Parliamentary Elections, though possessing the requisite property qualification: *Chorlton v. Lings*, L. R. 4 C. P. 374.

"Persons disabled from voting at elections are those who, holding freehold lands and tenements, either lie under natural incapacities, and therefore cannot exercise a sound discretion, or are so much under the influence of others that they cannot have a will of their own in the choice of candidates; of the former are women, infants, idiots, and lunatics; of the latter, persons receiving alms, and Revenue Officers": Heywood on Elections 159.

Women are disqualified by the common law from voting in Ireland: *Hudson on Elections* 159. And also in Scotland "by a long and uninterrupted custom": *Brown v. Ingram*, 7 Sess. Cas. (3rd ser.), 281. In the