

EARLY VESSELS AND STEAMERS AT GEORGIAN BAY PORTS.

On Georgian Bay, the first vessels and the first steamers ran, as one might naturally expect, in connection with the naval and military establishment at Penetanguishene. Of the first steamers stationed there at various times, there were, in particular, the *Midas*, the *Experiment*, and the *Mohawk*. These had headquarters at Penetanguishene at one time or another in the forties, but it does not appear that any one of the list made regular trips at stated intervals. Before these, however, there was a pioneer steamer named the *Penetanguishene*. It was the first steamer built at this place and was launched about the year 1832 by Mitchell and Thompson, according to the information elicited by Mr. Osborne from the voyageurs. (See p. 145, Ontario Historical Society's Papers and Records, Vol. III.) It was a small steamer, and ran regularly between there and Coldwater, Captain Borland being in charge of her.

At Sturgeon Bay, a shipping depot was established at the time the Government Road was made thither from Coldwater, and a blockhouse was erected. Sturgeon Bay had docks, and the early steamers made it a port for calls; being the terminus of the Coldwater portage, it became a stirring place in the days before the railways. It is claimed, and quite properly so, that the *Gore* was the first steamer to make regular trips in connection with this port, and indeed with any other port on Georgian Bay. The Steamer *Gore* (200 tons) was built at Niagara in 1837. Early in the forties she ran regularly from Sturgeon Bay, which was the point of embarkation for travellers going to the upper lakes. On account of the development of the Bruce mines, the lake traffic here grew rapidly for that day, and Sturgeon Bay flourished. Owing to this boom, a town-plot called Port Powell was surveyed in 1846 on lots 9 and 10, con. 9, Tay, and building lots placed on the market by family relatives of Chief Justice Powell, after whom the place doubtless received its name. The sailings of the *Gore* in 1850 will be found in Chap. XII. of this volume.

This continued until Collingwood became the port for the Bruce mines and other places up the lakes, at the completion of the Northern Railway, Jan. 1, 1855. The first regular line of steamboats, in connection with the railway, began at Collingwood in 1857.

At Collingwood, on the opening of the Northern Railway in 1855, one of the first steamers was the *Mazeppa*, which made regu-