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The Rideau Lakes.

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The term Rideau Canal is rather a misnomer. If we except the five miles of actual canal between the Dufferin Bridge at Ottawa and Hogsback, and, again, the one mile or more each of excavation at Poonamalie and Newboro, the whole one hundred and twenty six miles of water route between Ottawa and Kingston now comprise merely two rivers and a chain of lakes—the Rideau River, which, flowing for sixty five miles on the one side of the watershed, falls at Ottawa into the Ottawa River; the Cataraqui River, which, descending for eighteen miles on the other side, falls at Kingston into Lake Ontario; and, connecting the headwaters of these two rivers, a continuous group of nine beautiful lakes, each lying close to the next and all more or less studded with islands.

Canal journeys are slow and often monotonous. The tourist, whose memories of the beautiful in Canadian river scenery are associated with the Thousand Islands, and who when speeding down the rapids of the St. Lawrence has observed, in striking contrast, the tedious progress through the St. Lawrence canals of the returning steamers as they wend their way back again to the upper lakes, is hardly prepared for the information that, inland, on what is, officially, but, by a misnomer, known as the Rideau Canal, there is for fifty miles a succession of lake scenery more beautiful and more varied than that of the Thousand Islands. And yet it is so. These Rideau Lakes were better known fifty years ago than now. With the opening of the St. Lawrence canals and the construction of railways, the Rideau route ceased to be a main thoroughfare, and is now only locally known.

The character of the scenery here is largely due to the geological features of the country. The cañon at Kingston Mills which forms the bed of the Cataraqui River, is walled by low Laurentian hills of 150 to 200 feet in height, and shows in the bevelled edges of the gneiss near the