

with the crowded population, explains why that district is the richest archaeological field in Canada, and is one of the richest in all America, north of the Mexican boundary.

The Hurons also were fishermen,—the deeply indented inlets of Georgian Bay and the lakes Simcoe and Couchiching affording a plentiful supply of fish. At "The Narrows" near Orillia might still be seen a few years ago some of the stakes of the old fish weir of the Hurons. It was from these fish stakes or hurdles that the old French name *Lac La Chie* was given to Lake Simcoe.

The Hurons also were traders for themselves and for the neighbouring tribes. They raised the crops that we have mentioned and engaged in barter. From the Neutrals they got furs, from their brethren of the Tobacco Nation they got tobacco, and from the Algonquins they obtained the skins of the beaver, bear, deer and moose. Having a surplus they started in their birch bark canoes for Three Rivers and Quebec to dispose of their packs to the French traders. The ever alert Iroquois guarded the front route by lake and river, hence they were compelled to take the route up the French River, across Lake Nipissing and down the Ottawa. The Iroquois traded with the Dutch by way of the Mohawk and the Hudson. Once started a conflict between these two Indian nations and then bring in two European nations competing for the trade in peltries, and you have good and sufficient ground for the continuance of the fight to the bitter end. Even in this commercial struggle the Neutral Indians remained neutral and we wonder why. Was it because they feared to take out their loads of furs past the Iroquois frontier, or was it because the Hurons were skilful in the use of the birch bark canoe? Probably both. The fact is, however, that the Hurons were the fur traders for a large area and through their annual trips to Quebec maintained a direct connection between their home on Georgian Bay and the headquarters of the French at Quebec. There is much in this to explain the story that follows. A people living in fixed fortified towns, producing crops and engaging in trade must impress one as being of a superior type, even if that type is savage.

What of the house or home life of the Hurons? The migratory hunters of the plains and the Algonquins of the great pine and spruce forests of the north lived in wigwams of skins and bark, but the fixed Huron-Iroquois Nations lived in what may be described as houses or cabins. Their construction was somewhat as follows: Two parallel rows of tall saplings were planted in the ground, bent together at the top until there was left an open space of a foot or so in width along the ridge, and then lashed together so as to form a sort of arbor or booth about thirty feet in width at the bottom and about twenty feet in height. Other poles were tied securely to these upright poles and then the sides