

of the steamer, which is a vast improvement on the fare to be had on most American and Canadian boats. It will be inferred that the party of which we write were comfortably bestowed and were in no way frantic to reach the end of their journey. They were far from fatigued by the trip over the Northern and North-Western Railway, which was relieved by glimpses of fine farms, unbroken forests, pretty stations and reasonably protracted views of the beautiful Lakes Simcoe and Lake Couchiching, which are worth travelling a long distance to see.

From the foot of Muskoka Lake to the head of Lake Rosseau, the distance is about 36 miles, but a side trip up the picturesque Muskoka river to Bracebridge, the head of navigation, and return, added a dozen miles to the journey, and afforded the party 48 miles of as delightful water travel as can be found on the American continent.

Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph Lakes lie closely together, and are connected by narrow streams which are navigable for good sized steamers. Lake Joseph is slightly out of the way to the traveller whose destination is the head of Lake Rosseau, but the distance is so short and the beauties of the lake so pronounced, that Lake Joseph is sure to receive attention and words of eloquent praise from the great mass of people who visit the Muskoka country. These lakes are elevated several hundred feet above Lake Ontario, and their breezes are exceedingly pure and refreshing. To deal specifically which these interesting lakes is simply out of the question and to compare their attractions one with the other, were absurd. But comparatively few people know anything about them, and many of those who have heard of Muskoka, Rosseau, and Joseph have pictured them to their imagination as small bodies of water in which fish are to be caught if the fisherman has the power of endurance to bear up under the torture of the irrepressible black fly and the relentless mosquito; good sized pools margined by marshes, shallow and low mud banks; out-of-the-way places, remote from civilization, and only inviting to the professional sportsman who would rather rough it in the wilderness than dwell at rest in the tents of the multitude. But these fancies have no warrant in fact: the pictures are the very opposite of those drawn by the uninitiated; and instead of low banked, muddy pools we have lakes of goodly proportions, whose high rocky banks are clothed in verdure, and from above whose clear surfaces rise hundreds of islands which fairly *throw into shadow the traditional "thousand" of the St. Lawrence River.* The tourist who is reasonably familiar with the magnificent scenery which is making famous the north shore of Lake Superior, will recognize in these