

REPORTS

ON THE

ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK

OF ONTARIO

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

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


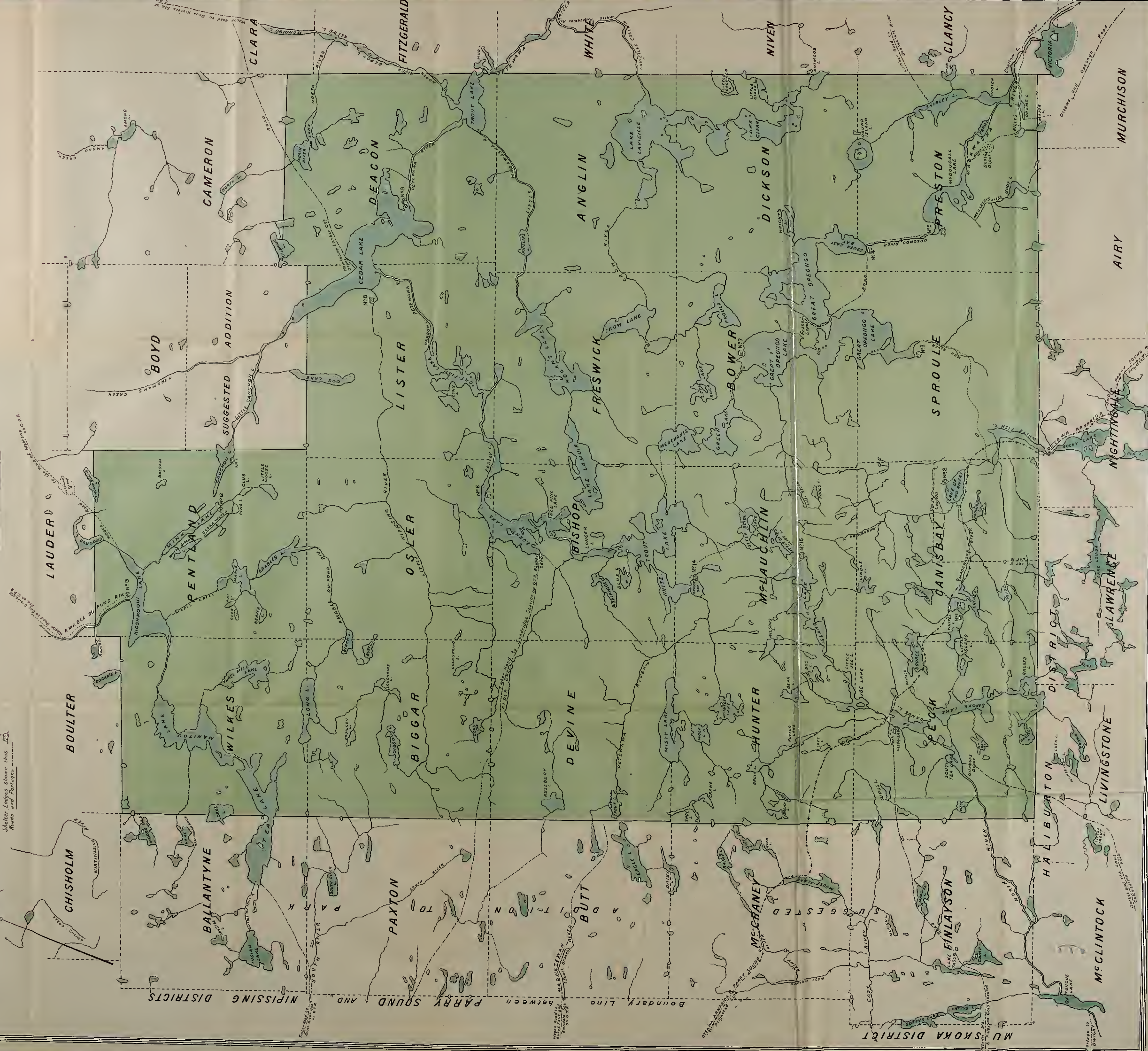
MAP OF ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK, OF ONTARIO.

Prepared to accompany Report of Park Commissioners
to the Honorable A.S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands

1893.

SCALE 2 MILES TO AN INCH

Shelter Lodges shown thus 
Roads and Portages shown thus 



CHISHOLM
BOULTER
LAUDER
BOYD
CAMERON
CLARA
DEACON
FITZGERALD
ANGLIN
WHITE
NIVEN
CLANCY
MURCHISON
AIRY
NIGHTINGALE
LAWRENCE
LIVINGSTONE
MCCLEINTOCK
HALIBURTON
DISTRICT
PEACH
MCLAUCHLIN
BISHOP
FRESHWICK
BOWER
DICKSON
PRESTON
SPROULE
WILKES
BIGGAR
DEVINE
HUNTER
MCGRANEY
FINLAYSON
BALLANTYNE
PAXTON
BUTT
MCCLENTOCK
HALIBURTON
DISTRICT
PEACH
MCLAUCHLIN
BISHOP
FRESHWICK
BOWER
DICKSON
PRESTON
SPROULE
WILKES
BIGGAR
DEVINE
HUNTER
MCGRANEY
FINLAYSON

Boundary Line between
PARRY SOUND AND
NIPISSING DISTRICTS

MUSKOKA DISTRICT

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REPORTS
ON THE
ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK
OF ONTARIO
FOR THE YEAR 1893.

*To His Honor the Honorable GEORGE AIREY KIRKPATRICK,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario :*

SIR,—I beg to submit herewith, for the information of Your Honor and the Legislative Assembly, the following reports, one by Mr. Peter Thomson, Chief Ranger, and the other by Mr. James Wilson, Superintendent of Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, in connection with The Algonquin National Park of Ontario.

Mr. Thomson's report gives a brief account of the preparatory and other work done in the Park since it was set apart by Act of the Legislative Assembly last year.

Mr. Wilson, who has had long experience as Superintendent of the Queen Victoria Park at Niagara Falls, was requested to visit the Park in the autumn of last year and make a report thereon. In his report Mr. Wilson gives an interesting description of portions of the Park traversed by the principal waterways, and also makes a number of suggestions as to its management and administration. On the map accompanying his report the position of the Park headquarters, shelter-huts, etc., is indicated.

The Algonquin National Park Act (56 Victoria, chapter 8) is given in full so that the objects for which the Park was established, the conditions under which it is administered, the penalties for hunting or trespassing therein, etc. may be more widely known.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. HARDY,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,
TORONTO, 1st March, 1894.

CHIEF RANGER THOMSON'S REPORT.

The Honorable A. S. HARDY,

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Toronto.

SIR,—I beg to submit the following report in connection with The Algonquin National Park of Ontario, from its inception up to the end of 1893.

On being appointed Chief Ranger of the Park, 21st July last, I received instructions from yourself to proceed thither in company with Mr. James Dickson, O.L.S., and to begin at once the erection of a house for headquarters and a number of small shelter-lodges in various portions of the Park for the accommodation of the rangers while on duty. Having made arrangements for the purchase of such provisions, tools, etc., as would be required, I left for the Park on the 23rd of July. I was joined at Orillia by Mr. Dickson, and on reaching Huntsville we found the supplies from Toronto, together with four canoes and three tents, which Mr. Dickson had previously procured and forwarded from Peterborough. Messrs. Stephen Waters of Huntsville, William Geall of Port Sydney, and Timothy O'Leary of Uptergrove, reported for duty here, having been appointed as under-rangers for the season on trial. The party was completed by the engaging of Robert Dinsmore of Huntsville and William Morgan of Port Sydney, as carpenters and builders, and Samuel Barr of Fenelon Falls as assistant.

After packing our outfit we proceeded from Huntsville to Dwight. On arriving at the latter place we transported our effects by wagon to Oxtongue lake, seven miles distant, and thence continued our journey in canoes up the Muskoka river to Canoe lake, in the township of Peck, which we reached on the 2nd of August, making no less than fifteen portages *en route*. At a point on the north side of Canoe lake we determined to build our headquarters, the lot chosen being the south half of 19 in the second concession of Peck. After setting the men to clear the place, get out the timber, etc., Mr. Dickson and myself, accompanied by one of the rangers, set out on a trip of inspection for the purpose of locating sites for the shelter-lodges and of obtaining an idea of the connections of the various water systems of the Park. We returned after a week's absence, having gone as far as Great Opeongo lake on the east and Cedar lake on the north, and touching on most of the lakes lying between. Shortly afterwards Mr. Dickson returned to Toronto.

The house at headquarters was finished about the latter part of August. It is a substantial, hewed-log building, 21 by 28 feet, with hewed timber floor and "scoop" roof. We selected this site for headquarters because of its accessibility to Canoe lake and the chain of waters of which this lake forms a part, its nearness to the proposed line of railway from Arnprior to Parry Sound, and also because of the fine grove of balsam, spruce and a few pine trees which stood upon it. During the absence of myself and staff in October, the employes of Messrs. Gilmour & Co., who own the pine timber in this part of Peck, built a lumber camp (doubtless through some misunderstanding) immediately alongside

and within ten or twelve feet of our head-quarters. They also entered the grove and took out the pine, at the same time cutting down a great number of other trees, and marring the beauty of the place, which I had hoped to preserve.

During the course of the summer and fall we erected, in addition to headquarters, fifteen shelter-lodges, on previously selected sites throughout the Park. Following are the situations of same :

- (1) Cache lake, north side of Madawaska river, lot 5, con. 6, Canisbay.
- (2) North side of lake of Two Rivers, south-east corner lot 30, con. 8, Canisbay.
- (3) West side of south bay of Great Opeongo lake, township of Sproule, half a mile west of mouth of Mud creek.
- (4) Southernmost point of south-east bay of Great Opeongo lake, township of Preston.
- (5) South side of head of McDougal lake at entrance of Opeongo river, township of Preston.
- (6) North end of Burnt lake at mouth of Petawawa river, lot 27, con. 1, Osler.
- (7) North side of Great Opeongo lake, lot 22, con. 7, Bower.
- (8) North side of Little Nipissing branch of Petawawa, lot 30, con. 10, Lister.
- (9) East end of Cedar lake, near mouth of Petawawa river, lot 13, con. 7, Deacon.
- (10) Foot of Horseshoe lake, township of Boyd, immediately adjoining north boundary of Lister.
- (11) South side of Cauchon lake, lot 34, con. 6, Pentland.
- (12) Head of Mink lake, lot 22, con. 7, Pentland.
- (13) North side of Kioshkoqui lake, near head of Amable du Fond river.
- (14) Grass bay, White Trout lake, lot 13, con. 13, McLaughlin.
- (15) East side of Island lake, lot 16, con. 16, McLaughlin.

These shelter-lodges or huts are erected at such points as will be convenient for the purpose of preventing the entrance of poachers and trespassers into the Park, and will command the passage from one chain of waters to another, as well as other lakes or waters within a radius of half a day's journey. They vary in distance from one another from seven to ten miles, the limit being a day's journey on snowshoes in winter. The lodges are of a uniform size of 14 by 16 feet, and are made of unhewed logs and covered with hand-made shingles. There is no sawn lumber used in their construction. Each has a door and a window of four panes of glass, and inside are a small table and sleeping berths for four men. A small sheet-iron stove, made specially for the purpose, will be placed in each. The outlay for labor, which is almost the only item of cost of these lodges, was perhaps from \$20 to \$25 apiece. In erecting them, as well as the larger house at Canoe lake, we not only had to find our raw material in the forest, but we were obliged to haul the logs by hand, frequently for considerable distances. As will be seen, the lodges built so far are mainly in the southern, central and eastern portions of the Park. In order to provide a chain of communication to and from all parts of the Park, and to permit of an efficient patrol being kept up summer and winter, a number of additional lodges will be required in the northern and western sections.

It was necessary to spend considerable time and trouble in cutting trails and clearing portages along the lines of water communication from one shelter-lodge to another. In all we cut out upwards of 25 miles of portages and trails, and cleared many stretches of river and creek beds from floating timber, brush and other obstructions, in order to secure free passage for our canoes.

I may say that I have found a tendency on the part of the public in general, and more particularly of men who have been in the habit of hunting and trapping in the territory now included in the Park, to acquiesce in the new state of things. I came in contact with a number of trappers who were removing their traps from the Park, and who appeared to have given up any idea of further trapping there. While regretting the loss of their trapping grounds, they acknowledged that the fur-bearing animals were gradually becoming more scarce, and recognized that the preservation of game and fur animals within the Park would eventually be to their benefit, as the animals would increase in number and could be taken in their proper season outside the Park limits. We found a trapper's camping ground on the north side of Horseshoe and Mink lakes and seized several traps and a few beaver skins. The man himself could not be found. This is the only violation of the law which came under my notice. During the hunting season deer were several times pursued up to within a short distance of the Park, but so far as I know, the chase did not extend into it.

I received from the Department notices printed on linen, warning hunters, trappers and others, against trespassing in the Park. I had these nailed up at conspicuous places in the Park, and also at points in the neighborhood where they would be seen and read.

With regard to game, both moose and deer are plentiful, particularly in the northern and western townships of the Park, notwithstanding the reckless slaughter of late years. In my opinion, there are as many moose as deer, and in the township of Butt, just outside the west boundary, the moose are very numerous. Signs of beaver are seen in various places, but the families appear to be small. In very many localities where these animals have evidently existed in large numbers in times past, there is now no indication of their presence. They are, however, I am convinced, still sufficiently numerous to replenish the Park, if properly protected for a few years. Mink, otter, fisher and martin are plentiful, and muskrat abound. There are many bears and wolves. The former do little or no damage, but the wolves are very destructive to deer. The bonus of \$10 per head for killing wolves does not seem to have had much effect in reducing their numbers, either here or in the surrounding country. Foxes are numerous, and prey upon the partridges. The latter are abundant, and wild ducks are often seen on some of the lakes. There are many shallow, soft-bottomed lakes that seem suitable for the growth of wild rice, the favorite food of ducks, which does not at present appear to occur in the Park. The experiment of procuring some wild rice and sowing it in such places would be attended with very little cost.

Following your instructions, I have taken steps to obtain a quantity of white pine seed, in order that some experiments in forestry may be attempted.

The water in the rivers and lakes in the Park was last year unusually low. The snowfall this winter has so far been heavy, and up to 31st December, according to measurements made by myself, amounted to 55 inches.

Messrs. Gilmour & Co., whose headquarters are at the foot of South Tea lake, are carrying on extensive lumbering operations in Peck township. They have built a dam at the lower end of this lake, and have raised the water four feet. I understand that it is their intention to construct a dam at the foot of Joe lake as well. Lumbering is also being conducted in the Park by Messrs. Barnet & Co., Whitney & Co., Fraser & Co., and others; and I am pleased to say that from all these firms and their employes I have experienced the best of treatment, and a general desire has been shown to co-operate with myself and staff in furthering the objects for which the Park was established.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

PETER THOMSON,

Chief Ranger.

CANOE LAKE,

ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK OF ONTARIO,

3rd January, 1894.

MR. JAMES WILSON'S REPORT.

To the Honorable A. S. HARDY,
Commissioner of Crown Lands, etc.

DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request I spent some time in the late autumn of last year in visiting the territory which has been set apart by the Province as a National Park and Forest Reservation, under the title of The Algonquin National Park of Ontario ; and in further compliance with your wishes, I beg to make some observations thereon, and also to offer a few suggestions in respect to its care and management.

The territory set apart under the Act of 1893 comprises some eighteen townships in the Nipissing District, and covers an average breadth from east to west of nearly thirty-six miles, by an average of some forty miles in length from north to south ; or more correctly, two tiers of five townships on the west and two of four townships on the east.

ROUTES INTO THE PARK.

Access to the Park is at present somewhat difficult, as it is remote from railway connection, and the only roads leading in from any direction are those which have been opened up by lumbermen to take in supplies to their winter camps. These are mere paths or trails through the woods, wretchedly made, and of course very rough and tortuous.

Huntsville, a station on the Northern and North-western branch of the Grand Trunk Railway, and distant 145 miles from Toronto, appears to be the best point of debarkation at present for any party going in from the south or west. From Huntsville there are two routes now available ; one *via* Dorset on the Lake of Bays, with a 22-mile drive over a newly opened lumber road to Gilmour's camp on South Tea lake, or the old route *via* the North River, a branch of the Muskoka, by canoe from Dwright, also on Lake of Bays to the same objective point. The latter route was the only one open to me, as the road from Dorset was not completed at the time of my visit. On the west side of the Park there is a lumberman's wagon road from Sundridge on the G. T. R., 37 miles north of Huntsville, leading into the depot of Messrs. Barnet on Burnt lake, some 36 miles distant. On the north a much used wagon road enters from Dieux Rivieres on the Canadian Pacific Railway to the Hawkesbury Lumber Company's Depot on Cedar lake, some 24 miles ; and another from Eau Claire, also on the C. P. R., to Kioshkoqui lake, of nearly the same length. Besides these, there are said to be several wagon trails on the north-east and south ; but in all cases they are not desirable routes to travel over when it is possible to avoid them. As an instance, it may be stated that on some of these so-called roads a load for a team is frequently limited to two barrels of pork. The only means of transportation in the Park during the open season is afforded by canoes, and

these must be had by intending tourists before proceeding inland. A supply of suitable provisions should also be provided, as it will not be possible to obtain these in the Park, and a guide must be selected who is familiar with the ground to be travelled over.

Possibly a brief outline of the tour I was able to make through the Park may prove of interest; and at the same time it will afford me an opportunity of dealing with questions relating to the property or its management, as they were presented from time to time *en route*.

HUNTSVILLE TO CANOE LAKE.

Through the good offices of Dr. Howland of Huntsville a good canoe man who had hunted and trapped over some of the ground now included in the Park, and who could therefore act as guide, was secured at that place and the "pack" got ready. On October 31st we started in by steamer up Fairy and Peninsula lakes to Portage, where passengers and baggage are transferred over to Lake of Bays, a distance of one mile. Lake of Bays is a fine sheet of water reaching out its arms into five townships. It has two steamers plying from Portage on the north to Baysville on the south, Dorset on the east and Dwight on the north-east. In this instance in order to get to Dwight the steamer ran down the whole length of the lake to Baysville, remained there over night and returned up the lake in the morning. This necessitated a late start from Dwight, a small hamlet on the confines of settlement, which since my visit has been favored with telegraphic communication with the outer world. From Dwight there is a seven-mile portage to Oxtongue lake, and a team can be had to portage canoes and packs across. Two and one-half hours are required for this service. There are a few scattered settlers on Oxtongue lake, which lies in the township of McClintock; but beyond this there is no habitation of any kind excepting at a few points in the Park where a lumberman's depot has been established, and at Manitou lake where there is a settler.

Thirty minutes' paddling on Oxtongue lake, and the mouth of the North river is entered. North river, so called, is one of the principal branches of the Muskoka, and at this point is a winding stream of dark water some three chains in width. Forty minutes of paddling against the stream, and Ragged Falls is reached, where there is a short but steep portage over which the canoes and pack must be carried. At this place a timber slide has been newly erected by Messrs. Gilmour to facilitate the "driving" of logs from their timber limits in the Park on towards that company's mills at Trenton on Lake Ontario.

Less than half an hour's paddling from the head of Ragged Falls, and the long portage at High Falls is reached. This portage requires fully thirty minutes to pack over when the loads are light and can be carried in one trip. When several trips are necessary much time may be required before all is ready for a new start.

Beyond High Falls (at which place also the Gilmours have built a slide) there is a long reach of river with numerous small portages or "lift outs," and requiring fully six hours of continuous work at the paddles before the west boundary of the Park is gained. From this point there is another hour's hard work to get to the outlet of South Tea lake, where the Gilmours have erected a new and extensive lumber camp and supply depot. As this point is the chief centre of their timber limit and the starting point for the river drive

of logs, a substantial dam with sluiceway has been built, by means of which the water-level of the lakes draining into the North river at this point can be raised several feet, and the quantity of water passing down the river regulated to suit the requirements of the drive.

South Tea lake is near the southwest corner of the Park. It is a beautiful sheet of water some two miles in length. Its broad smooth waters and expanding scenery afford a welcome change to the tourist after battling with the long and tortuous river from Oxtongue lake. This lake is connected with Canoe lake by another reach of the North river.

THE PARK HEADQUARTERS.

Canoe lake is a more pretentious sheet of water than South Tea lake, and has been selected for the site of the headquarters of the Park rangers. Headquarters consist of a well-built log shanty 21 x 28 feet in dimensions with a good floor and roof, and standing well up from the level of the lake. Six sleeping berths of the customary lumber-shanty pattern are ranged along one end of the single room, and a sheet-iron stove affords rather inadequate facilities for cooking and other general purposes. Sheds for storage of canoes and for firewood will of course be built in due time. The site for headquarters was chosen on account of its position commanding the route to the chains of waters which lie to the north and east, and is convenient on that account; and also for the facilities it has of getting in supplies and mail matter when the lumber camps are in commission, as it is distant but an hour and a half by water from the depot on South Tea lake. Another reason which probably weighed in the selection was the projected location of the Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway near to its northern shore. This railway, if built as proposed, would bring this part of the Park into more immediate connection with the outer world, and would therefore require special supervision on the part of the Park rangers. As however the Park domain is entered on every side by hunters and trappers, some of whom have for many years followed their calling on the margin of its streams and waters, it will probably be found desirable to have the *chef lieu* moved to a point nearer to the centre of the territory.

Northwards from Canoe lake, and still following the main branch of the Muskoka river, there is a series of waters known as Joe, Little Joe and Island lakes—the last named above five miles in length and two in extreme width, though of very irregular shape. In point of fact all the lakes in the Park are of irregular outline, and many of them are extremely tortuous. From Island lake a short portage over the height of land circumscribing the Muskoka waters leads into Little Otter Slide lake, one of the headwaters of the great Petawawa river, which drains almost one-half of the territory comprising the Park, and flowing eastward empties into the Ottawa river at the head of Allumette island. Little Otter Slide and Otter Slide lakes are connected by a broad stream without rapids, but there is a very rough bit of river from Otter Slide to White Trout lake, and a four-mile portage to Grassy bay, which notwithstanding its many discomforts and severe labor is frequently made in preference to following the course of the stream.

 THE PETAWAWA AND AMABLE DU FOND LAKES.

From White Trout lake there is a magnificent chain of navigable waters with comparatively few portages intervening, extending to the north-east angle of the Park; and from thence across the northerly end of the Park to and beyond its westerly limits. This chain embraces White Trout, Longer, Red Pine, Burnt, Perley, Catfish, Narrow, Cedar, Little Cauchon and Cauchon lakes—all in the Petawawa series of waters, and Mink, Kioshkoqui, Manitou and the two Tea lakes on the Amable du Fond series. There are but three portages on the whole of this noble reach of waters that can be considered in any way objectionable. One of these is at the "Five Mile" on the Petawawa between Narrow and Cedar lakes, where there is a somewhat trying portage of a mile and a half. The other two are between Kioshkoqui and Manitou lakes, and are each about three-quarters of a mile in length. All the others, including the one over the height of land separating the two water systems, are comparatively easy, and are rather welcome than otherwise to the tourist, as they afford a chance to stretch the limbs after the cramped position incidental to a canoe journey. The western boundary of the Park crosses the Tea lakes at their point of junction.

From an examination of the accompanying map it will be observed that the route outlined above closely follows the main course of the waters of the Petawawa and Amable du Fond. There are numerous streams and rivers flowing into this main channel that are well worthy of being visited. In fact the territory is literally covered with lakes and ponds of great natural beauty but the time at my disposal forbade lingering, as the lateness of the season and the constant prospect of frost threatened at any time to close up the only means of communication. As it was, a good deal of time was lost in breaking a channel for the canoes through the ice on some of the sheltered streams.

WHITE TROUT TO GREAT OPEONGO.

Retracing our way to the outlet of White Trout lake a new course was taken in order to see the Great Opeongo lake. Traversing a bad portage of some three miles we reach Merchants' lake, another of the headwaters of the Petawawa, and a very pretty sheet of water some two miles long. A short portage over the height of land from Merchants lake and Green lake is reached, another beautiful basin, whose sandy shores present a pleasant contrast to the rugged, rocky outlines so generally characteristic of these inland waters. Green lake is the extreme northerly source of the great Madawaska river, which drains a very extensive reach of country to the east and south of the Park and finally enters the Ottawa river at Arnprior. The outlet from Green lake is very rough, and a long portage of some two miles is necessary in order to reach the Great Opeongo lake.

This is the largest sheet of water in the Park, and is truly a noble expanse of many square miles in extent. From north to south its extreme limits embrace some twelve miles, while in width it measures seven miles at one point. The outlet is at the south-east angle, where a large stream carries its waters into McDougal lake and thence to the east limit of the Park, which is crossed at a point a couple of miles from the southern boundary, several large lakes adding their quota to its volume near that point. Great

Opeongo lake is very irregular in shape, the extensive east bay being separated from the main body of the lake by a narrows limited to a few feet in width, and the narrows dividing the north and south bays being but a few chains wide. The lake has numerous islands and presents many picturesque features. When seen in the hazy dawn of an Indian summer morning its beauties make a lasting impression on the mind, even though the larder may be empty and one has to seek far for somewhat to stay the cravings of hunger.

Great Opeongo is not always safe for canoe navigation, as in fact is the case to a greater or less degree with all the larger lakes in the Park. The great expanse of water gives scope to the wind, so that frequently a few minutes suffice to change the surface from the proverbial sea of glass to foam-crested billows, when the frail canoe must quickly find a haven of refuge or be swamped beneath the turbulent waters. Fortunately the irregularity of outline, already referred to, usually affords an opportunity of shelter when storms arise; but escape is often protracted until the storm abates, as through all this territory the waterway is the only available route from place to place.

GREAT OPEONGO BACK TO CANOE LAKE.

From the south end of Lake Opeongo the best known route to the west is by a rough portage to Welcome lake of about four miles—a trying ordeal even in November, when packs are heavy and the uneven ground wet and slippery. From Welcome lake the trail leads the west branch of the Madawaska at a point some distance above Whitefish lake. *En route* there is a series of small lakes with portages intervening of from one-quarter to three-quarters of a mile in length, some of them being difficult. Following the course of the Madawaska against the stream for two miles Lake of Two Rivers is reached; crossing it to the west end ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles) the Madawaska is again followed for about ten miles to Cache lake. At this part of its course the Madawaska is a small stream and remarkably crooked. The distance measured in a straight line from Lake of Two Rivers to Cache lake is not over four miles, while as above stated the course to be gone over is fully $2\frac{1}{2}$ times that distance. Between Cache and Smoke lakes there are several large ponds or lakes, the chief one being Little Island lake, a goodly sized water with a large island in the middle. The four portages aggregate about one mile in length, the last one being over the height of land dividing the Madawaska waters from those of the Muskoka. Smoke lake has a length of about four miles, and receives at its southern extremity the waters of Ragged lake on the south boundary of the Park with its several tributaries, and outflows into the north branch of the Muskoka *via* South Tea lake. A half mile portage leads from Smoke to Canoe lake at its extreme southern limit, whence it is but a two mile paddle up the lake to headquarters.

The lake scenery throughout is very beautiful. Each expanse of water has some charm peculiarly its own. On every side the forest primeval clothes the hills and mountains with verdure of varying hue down to the very shore; deep shades are thrown across the dark waters of the lake, whose placid surface mirrors to perfection every outline of cloud or hill, tree or rock; while the baby ripples from the bow of the canoe, or the congeries of air bubbles from each stroke of the paddles glisten in the sunlight like

diamonds, or as the stars on a December night. To the tourist the continual change from lake to river, from river to portage, and from portage to river and lake again, make a delightful panorama which captivates the eye and the senses, and provides abundant opportunity for the cultivation of the tastes in the study of all the varying phases of the landscape, and impels a seeking after more perfect knowledge of the many varieties of animal and vegetable life which have their habitat in the territory.

It may be mentioned *en passant* that the time required to make the trip outlined above and beginning at Oxtongue lake, where the canoe was put into the water and back to the same point, actually took thirteen days to accomplish—or from 1st to 14th November. In summer when the days are longer less time would be required. The distance travelled was about 230 miles of canoe navigation and over 30 of land portages.

All the lakes are well stocked with fish. Grey or lake trout, salmon and brook trout are the principal kinds found ; brook trout weighing from one pound to two pounds and the others varying from four pounds to thirty pounds or over. Large numbers of the young of these fish are annually destroyed by gulls and loons, and it might be advisable to consider the propriety of waging war upon the latter, as neither bird is of much commercial value, and their depredations largely outweigh other considerations.

EFFECTS OF LUMBERING IN THE PARK.

One cannot proceed far upon Park property without encountering some of the many evidences of the presence of the lumberman ; and certainly at first sight the effect is depressing. All the lands embraced in the Park limits are now covered with licenses to cut timber. In fact, pine timber has been cut on some of the territory for nearly fifty years, and on a very large area licenses were issued before Confederation. The south-west corner has been under license but two years. There are quite a number of firms who have an interest in the standing timber of these lands, and several of them are busily engaged in removing the timber, principally the pine. One firm, Messrs. Gilmour, have ten camps located on their limit, each camp numbering from thirty to thirty-five men. In all, probably 600 men may, at the present time, be at work lumbering in the Park ; and the total output representing this winter's work will certainly amount to many millions of feet. The felling of every pine tree means the maiming or destruction of several other trees ; and the aggregate loss entailed by these operations in the forest wealth of the limits is very large. It must be understood that the pine is not totally cleaned out by the lumbermen, the specifications of the firms varying in respect to the size, but as a rule nothing less than ten inches in diameter is taken. Doubtless on some of the limits every sound pine tree down to these dimensions will be removed. It will be many years before the Park can, under existing contracts, be freed from these operations, so that any scheme for the preservation or development or supervision of the property must take the lumberman into account. This condition of affairs has however some redeeming features, one of these being the improvement of the waterways, by the erection of dams at the outlets of the lakes and at some of the rapids or falls, the effect of which is to raise the level of the water, and also by removing obstructions in

the streams and rivers. The making of roads, such as they are, into the territory may also be mentioned, but the chief offset is the fact that the Province realizes large revenues from the timber cut from year to year, as well as from the bonus paid at the time of granting the license. It must be steadily borne in mind that it is practically impossible to secure the preservation of the forest, although it be allowed to remain in a state of nature. No amount of precaution on the part of the authorities can guarantee total immunity from this destroyer, and one fire may cause more damage in a couple of days than an army of lumbermen in years. When the limits are under license the assistance of the lumbermen in preventing and quenching fires is assured. The lumberman must be borne with until all the limits are denuded of their merchantable pine, whenever that may be. Some portions of the Park are now practically "cleaned out," and abandoned lumbermen's camps, of which there are many scattered through the Park, are mute evidences of where his axe held sway.

HOW TO PROTECT THE GAME.

With respect to the protection to be afforded the birds and animals now found in the Park, it would appear from a careful consideration of the question that the only possible means at command for preserving these and giving them an opportunity to increase is to put down poaching with a strong hand. It will be absolutely necessary for some years to come, or until public sentiment has been aroused and sympathy with the objects in view on the part of those living of the confines of the Park secured, to strengthen the hands of the Chief Ranger by putting in a strong force of capable men as rangers or constables—men familiar with all the devious ways of trappers, and who can be relied on to faithfully carry out their instructions. During my visit to the Park it was evident that the regulations were being disregarded; and while the rangers under Chief Thomson were busily engaged in the necessary work of getting shelters provided at different points in the wide field for the men when on patrol during cold or stormy weather, trappers were plying their vocation on the remote waters, and escaping by the numerous trails to where a safe market for their catch could be had. The presence of large numbers of lumbermen, many of them more or less skillful in trapping, will add to the difficulty of the rangers in enforcing the regulations, particularly in the vicinity of the numerous camps. The constant communication by teams with the various supply depots for these camps will make the smuggling of a catch of furs from the Park to market a comparatively easy matter.

The force of rangers needed for the protection of the fur-bearing animals will be all the more necessary if the moose and deer are to be preserved. Undoubtedly these noble specimens of animal life are becoming scarce, and it will be a matter for sincere and lasting regret if strong efforts are not made to prevent their practical extermination from this section of Ontario. To many men it appears strange that with all our boasted civil-

ization these animals are still often wantonly slaughtered even by so-called sportsmen. Hunting them with dogs and canoes in the vicinity of large waters can at the best be considered but a sorry sort of sport.

PARK LIMITS SHOULD BE EXTENDED.

I am informed on reliable authority that the territory lying to the west of the present Park limits has long been a favorite run for deer, more especially the townships of McCraney, Butt and Paxton. Settlers in these townships are as yet few and far between, and I would assume the responsibility of suggesting to the Commissioner that he consider the advisability of adding to the territorial limits of the Park the range of townships on the west, viz :—Ballantyne, Paxton, Butt, McCraney and the eastern portion of Finlayson. The westerly line of these townships is the dividing line between the districts of Parry Sound and Nipissing, and will make a most desirable line of demarcation between the lands reserved for the Park and lands open to settlement. These townships are all in the height of land where deer are wont to roam and where they seek shelter in stormy weather. Again, over considerable ranges of this territory the water-ways do not afford ready means of travel, and consequently fewer tourists and hunters invade it. Altogether it would be a most desirable addition to the Park domain; and unless there be very strong reasons why it should not be set apart for this purpose, its early designation as part of the reserve may be hoped for. Provision is made in the Park Act for such a proceeding. The southerly half, if not the whole, of the township of Boyd could also with great advantage be added to the reservation. The principal chain of the north branch of the Petewawa waters, by which access is had to the fine range of the Amable du Fond waters on the northwest corner of the Park, runs through this township and outside of the present limits of the Park. For this reason it would appear to be almost a necessity that this connecting link, which must form one of the main routes of the Park rangers for all time, should be wholly within the Park—a matter to which the attention of the Commissioner is respectfully directed.

From the fact that the townships above referred to were not embraced in the limits recommended by the Royal Commissioners appointed to report on the Park project, it is assumed that there may be objections to including them which may indeed possibly be insuperable; but on the other hand there can be no manner of doubt that every square mile of territory added to the limits will favor the preservation of the deer and moose; and this result alone is well worthy of an effort to overcome surmountable difficulties. In addition to this result, however, all the aims had in view in the establishment of the Park will be made more stable and secure.

DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

Wolves are said to be very numerous in the Park. They are the natural enemies of every desirable form of animal life. A determined effort should be made to destroy them; and to this end the energies of the rangers should be directed, especially during the winter months, when the lakes are frozen over and poison may be readily used without endangering other forms of life. It may also be worth considering whether the

bounty presently paid for the destruction of wolves within the Province might not be increased with advantage. Bears and foxes should also be destroyed without mercy; and it is equally worthy of consideration whether a Government bounty should not be paid for the heads of these pests.

The Park Act provides that a special license may be issued by the Commissioner of Crown Lands upon the recommendation of the Superintendent for the destruction of wolves, bears, and other wild and noxious animals. It would certainly be to the interest of the Park to take advantage of the provisions of the Act and secure a few good men for extra service in this way under the supervision of the Chief Ranger.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RANGERS AND TOURISTS.

Reference has been made to the necessity of removing headquarters from its present location on Canoe lake. Were it not for the difficulty of getting in supplies, Great Opeongo lake would be an ideal location for this purpose. Quite likely a route to the latter place may be found which will be reasonably favorable, but for the present the wisdom of the choice of Canoe lake can hardly be questioned. As, however, a new site must be selected, a fairly good one can be had at some point on the same lake but nearer to the south end, where a commodious building with the necessary sheds should be erected.

I am decidedly of the opinion that in addition to headquarters on Canoe lake three substantial sub-depots should be built at points not remote from the four corners of the Park, and if possible easy of access for the purpose of getting in supplies, say at Opeongo lake on the east and at Kioshkoqui and Trout lakes on the north, each of these to be fitted up for occupation by married rangers. A small piece of land in connection with each of these depots could be cleared for the raising of a few vegetables, etc., and in time sufficient for the pasturage and maintenance of a cow. By this means, and with night-shelters scattered over the territory at intervals of a day's journey apart, something like comfortable accommodations could be afforded the rangers, and the Park more readily brought under a system of efficient patrol. Already some fifteen small night-shelters have been put up at suitable locations. Others can be built from time to time as found to be needed.

There is no question that the many attractions of the Park will ere long be eagerly sought out by parties of tourists from all the cities of Ontario. For many years camping parties from Buffalo and Rochester have been visiting the territory and spending some time each season revelling amid its health-giving charms; and doubtless, the new and improved conditions will awaken a much wider interest and attract many others. For this reason the design of the depots should provide some spare room for the shelter of tourists in case of need (until such time as hotel accommodation is provided) as well as the lodging of such of the rangers as may be required to rendezvous there from time to time. Food supplies might also be obtainable at the depot, under regulations of the Chief Ranger.

At the foot of Manitou Lake there is an Indian half-breed settler located, who has a very intimate knowledge of the waterways of the Park, the family having for genera-

tions hunted and trapped in this neighborhood. He is said to be a reliable man, having employment for some months of the year as fire ranger. As he has title to some land there it may be a prudent course to designate him as an official guide for the benefit of tourists who may wish to enter the Park from the west.

Possibly it would be desirable for the Chief Ranger to have authority to license guides to the Park and have some sort of authority over them.

In order to facilitate the movements of the rangers in patrolling the streams and rivers, I would suggest the advisability of the erection of simple timber dams at points where there are small rapids and shallows so as to reduce the length of the portages to a minimum. The larger portages to avoid rapids usually take a winding course away from the water and consequently at present such portions are not readily examined by the rangers. Every additional bit of river that can be navigated by canoe will make the work of the rangers more effective, and at the same time the toil incident to the long portages will be avoided and their movements appreciably expedited. There were many places *en route* on the occasion of my visit where such work could be done with but little expenditure of labor, and doubtless on the side streams and inland waters, where poachers will now cause most trouble, there are numerous instances which will present themselves to the Chief Ranger where such work would be of great assistance, particularly at periods of low water.

The nomenclature of the lakes in the Park requires revising; and it would be judicious to have this done authoritatively before maps of the territory on a reasonably large scale are published for the use of tourists and visitors. For instance there are Tea lakes at either extremity of the Park, numerous Wolf lakes, Trout lakes, Long lakes, etc., etc., all of which is confusing to the visitor. Such maps should also show the positions of all the portages to aid those who may venture into the territory without a guide.

In conclusion permit me to say that the map which accompanied this letter has been reduced from the maps of the several townships, and it should therefore be reasonably correct. Two of the townships have not been surveyed, and I have been unable to secure data for filling in the waterways on this portion. Possibly there may be some maps in the possession of the Department which will permit of this being done with tolerable accuracy.

The map indicates the additional territory which I have taken the liberty of suggesting should be set apart for Park purposes.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WILSON,

Superintendent Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park.

NIAGARA FALLS, February, 1894.

THE ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK ACT.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK OF ONTARIO.

(56 Victoria, chapter 8.)

Whereas it is expedient and in the public interest that a national park and forest reservation should be set apart and established in the territory lying near and enclosing the head waters of the Muskoka, Madawaska, Amable du Fond and Petawawa and South rivers ;

Therefore Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as *The Algonquin National Park Act*. Short title.
2. The tract of land comprising the following townships, being the lands of the Crown, and lying within the Nipissing district, that is to say, Peck, Hunter, Devine, Biggar, Wilkes, Cainsbay, McLaughlin, Bishop, Osler, Pentland, Sproule, Bower, Freswick, Lister, Preston, Dickson, Anglin, and Deacon, is hereby withdrawn from sale, settlement and occupancy under the provisions of *The Public Lands Act*, *The Free Grants and Homesteads Act*, and *The Mines Act, 1892*. Boundaries of park.
Rev. Stat. c. 24.
Rev. Stat. c. 25.
55 V. c. 9.
- 3.—(1) The said tract of land is hereby reserved and set apart as a public park and forest reservation, fish and game preserve, health resort and pleasure ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the people of the Province, subject to the provisions of this Act and of the regulations hereinafter mentioned, and shall be known as the Algonquin National Park of Ontario. Dedication of park.
- (2) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall have power to add to the park any adjoining townships or parts of townships in which no lands have heretofore been granted, and in case of any such addition this Act shall be read with respect to such townships or parts of townships as if the same were mentioned in the section 2 of this Act. Lieutenant-Governor may add other townships to Park.
4. No person shall, except as hereinafter provided, locate, settle upon, use or occupy any portion of the said public park. Lands not to be located or settled upon.
5. The park shall be under the control and management of the Department of Crown Lands, and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations for the following purposes :—
- (a) The care, preservation, management and improvement of the park, and of the watercourses, lakes, trees and shrubbery, minerals, natural curiosities and other matters therein contained. Control of Park.
Regulations.
Care and preservation.
- (b) The lease for any term of years of such parcels of land in the park as he deems advisable, for the construction of buildings for ordinary habitation, and such other buildings as may be necessary for the accommodation of visitors or persons resorting to the park as a sanitarium or health or summer resort. Leasing lots for erection of buildings.

- Issuing timber licenses. (c) The issuing of licenses to cut timber within the limits of the park in respect of timber berths heretofore sold, and for the improvement of the park, and for firewood for the use of persons engaged in and about the park.
- Mining. (d) The working of mines and the developing of mining interests within the limits of the park, and the issuing of licenses or permits of occupation for the said purposes ; but no lease, license or permit shall be made, granted or issued under this or the next two preceding paragraphs of this section which will in any way impair the usefulness of the Park for the purposes for which it is designed.
- Fires. (e) The prevention and extinguishment of fires.
- Licensing shops and inns. (f) The issuing of licenses for shops, and for houses for the accommodation of visitors and places where trade and industries necessary for the accommodation of persons resorting to the park may be carried on.
- Preservation of game and fish. (g) The preservation and protection of game and fish, of wild birds generally and of any and all animals in the park, and for the destruction of wolves, bears and other noxious or injurious or destructive animals.
- Trespassers with firearms. (h) The removal and exclusion of trespassers, and the confiscation or destruction of guns or other firearms or explosives, traps, nets, spears or other weapons or implements for hunting or fishing found within the limits of the park without proper authority.
- Appointment of superintendents and wardens. (i) The appointment of a superintendent and wardens, rangers, or other officers to see to the carrying out of the provisions of this Act and the regulations made thereunder, and the prescribing of their powers and duties, and providing for their salaries or other remuneration, out of any moneys which may be set apart for the purpose by the Legislature.
- Penalties. (j) The imposition of penalties for any violation of the provisions of this Act or of the regulations made thereunder, not exceeding in each case the sum of \$50, or in default of payment with costs, imprisonment for not more than three months.
- General purposes. (k) And generally for all purposes necessary to carry this Act into effect according to the true intent and meaning thereof.
- Publication of regulations. 6. Every regulation made as aforesaid shall after publication for four consecutive weeks in the *Ontario Gazette*, and in any other manner that may be prescribed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, have the like force and effect as if herein enacted, and such regulations shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly within fifteen days after its first meeting thereafter.
- Penalty for unauthorized use of firearms hunting, etc. 7. Carrying or using firearms or explosives within the said park, except as provided by the regulations for the government and maintenance of the park, hunting with or without firearms, or explosives, or trapping or spearing within the limits of said park, is prohibited under a penalty for each offence not exceeding \$100, except under special license for the killing of wolves, bears, wolverines, wild cats, foxes or hawks, to be issued by the Commissioner of Crown Lands upon the recommendation of the superintendent.
- Penalty for unauthorized fishing. 8. Fishing with net, trap, spear or night line in the waters within the limits of said park is strictly prohibited under a penalty not exceeding \$100

for each offence. No person shall fish within such waters with hook and line without a license therefor and then only for the purpose of supplying food for visitors or officers of the park or rangers or labourers therein employed by or under the control of the superintendent, and no fish caught within the waters of the park shall be sold, bartered, or trafficked in, either within or outside its boundaries, under a penalty not exceeding \$50 for each offence. Such license may be issued by the Commissioner of Crown Lands or by such other person as shall be duly authorized in that behalf by the Lieutenant-Governor.

9. The superintendent or any park ranger or provincial constable, or other person appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, may, on view, without warrant or legal process, arrest and bring before a justice or before the superintendent to be dealt with according to law, or he or they or the superintendent may, on view, arrest and remove from the limits of the park, any person found violating the provisions of this Act or carrying or having in his possession fishing nets, traps, spears or night lines, or firearms or other explosives, or other weapons or instruments for catching or killing fish, other than hook or line, or for the destruction of game or animals. The said park rangers shall have all the power and authority of constables.

Power to arrest on view of offence.

10. In any of the cases mentioned in the three next preceding sections any of such officers may seize, take possession of and retain or confiscate any such nets, traps, spears, firearms, explosives, weapons or instruments as aforesaid, or any justice of the peace, police or stipendiary magistrate having jurisdiction in the district may direct or order such seizure, confiscation or sale thereof. Such articles shall be sold in such manner as shall be provided by regulation, and the proceeds thereof, after deducting the necessary expenses, shall be applied towards the expenses of maintaining said park. Such arrest, removal, seizure or confiscation or sale shall not relieve the offender from any other penalty to which he has rendered himself liable under this Act or otherwise.

Seizure, confiscation and sale of weapons or implements.

11.—(1) No timber or wood shall be cut within the limits of said park except pine cut under the authority of a timber license issued under the provisions of *The Act respecting Timber on Public Lands*, or any regulations made thereunder, or by the authority of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, or under the regulations to be made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the government and maintenance of said park, provided nevertheless that nothing herein contained shall have the effect of withdrawing the pine timber upon such territory from any timber license, nor shall anything herein contained prevent the operation of any Act or regulation passed or made, or which lawfully may be passed or made in respect of any timber license affecting the said territory or the timber thereupon.

Cutting timber.

Rev. Stat. c. 28.

(2) A timber license over or in respect of any territory or lands being part of the said park shall not entitle the holder thereof to exclusive possession of such land or territory as against the Crown or the agents or servants thereof, nor shall any such license exempt the holder thereof, his agents or employees, from the prohibitions relating to fishing or hunting or the carrying or using of firearms within the limits of the said park.

Rights of timber license.

Mining
exploration.

12. Mining exploration or prospecting for minerals within the said park is prohibited, except under and in accordance with the provisions of the regulations to be made in that behalf.

Sale of
intoxicating
liquors within
the park.

13. No license for the sale of intoxicating liquors within the said park shall be issued, and any intoxicating liquor found within the limits of the said park and held for the purpose of sale contrary to the provisions of *The Liquor License Act* may be seized and destroyed by any park ranger or by any constable or license inspector having authority within the district of Nipissing, and the said rangers shall have all the powers and authority of a license inspector for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of *The Liquor License Act* therein and the provisions of this Act.

Rev. Stat.
c. 194.

Territory not
withdrawn
from opera-
tion of 55 V.
c. 10, Rev.
Stat. c. 221,
55 V. c. 58.

14. Nothing herein contained shall withdraw the said territory comprising the said park nor that within a mile from any part thereof from the operation of *The Act for the Protection of the Provincial Fisheries, 1892*, or *The Act for the protection of Game and Fur-bearing Animals* and any Acts amending the same except where it is therein otherwise provided, but the said Acts shall be and remain in force therein unless otherwise provided herein, but the provisions of said several Acts shall in so far as they are applicable apply and be in force, and prosecutions thereunder may be had as heretofore.

Offences to
which no
special
penalty at-
tached.

15. Any person violating any provision of this Act shall, where no penalty is herein or by law otherwise provided, be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50, and in default of payment thereof, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months with or without hard labor.

Offender's
liability for
damages.

16. In addition to any penalty provided by this Act for the violation of any of its provisions, the offender or offenders shall be liable for all damages caused by them, and the same may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Authority of
Superinten-
dent to act as
police magis-
trate.

17. The superintendent shall, within the limits of said park and for one mile from any part thereof, for the purposes of enforcing law and order and the provisions of this Act, and of any regulations which may be made by virtue thereof, have all the powers, rights and privileges of a police magistrate, and shall have as such superintendent jurisdiction over and within the said park and the territory surrounding the same for the distance of one mile therefrom or from any part thereof, unless and until otherwise provided by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council or the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint another person as police magistrate with such jurisdiction. But nothing in this section shall interfere with the jurisdiction of other magistrates.

Committal of
offenders.

18. Any person arrested for violation of any of the provisions of this Act or of any regulations punishable upon summary conviction by a justice of the peace, stipendiary or police magistrate may, either before or after conviction, be committed to the common gaol or any lock-up within the districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound or Muskoka or the county of Renfrew, whichever may to the committing justice or magistrate appear to be the most convenient.

19. In default of the payment of any penalty imposed by this Act, and costs by any person convicted of any offence under this Act, the offender may be committed to a common gaol or lock-up in the district of Muskoka and Parry Sound or Nipissing or the county of Renfrew for a period not exceeding three months, unless the penalty and costs and the costs and charges of the commitment and carrying the defendant to prison are sooner paid, and the amount of such costs and charges of commitment and carrying the offender to prison are to be ascertained and stated in the warrant of commitment; but no such commitment or warrant shall be void or be quashed or set aside by reason of such costs being incorrectly stated, but the same shall be amended by the insertion therein, at any stage of proceedings, of the correct amount.

Imprisonment
in default of
payment of
fine and costs.

20. Upon the hearing of any information or complaint exhibited or made under this Act, the person giving or making the information or complaint shall be a competent witness, notwithstanding such person may be entitled to part of the pecuniary penalty on the conviction of the offender, and the defendant shall also be a competent and compellable witness.

Complainant
and defendant
to be compe-
tent and com-
pellable wit-
nesses.

21. All prosecutions for the punishment of any offence under this Act, not specifically otherwise provided for, may take place before any stipendiary or police magistrate, or one or more of Her Majesty's justices of the peace having jurisdiction in the district of Nipissing, or before the said superintendent or other person appointed under the authority of this Act.

Who may try
offences.

22. One-half of every fine or penalty imposed by virtue of this Act shall belong to Her Majesty and may be devoted towards paying the expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Act, and the other half thereof when collected shall be paid over to the prosecutor or informant, together with any costs which he may have incurred and which may be collected. But nothing herein shall entitle the superintendent or rangers or other of the park employees to a share of, or to participate in any fine or penalty.

Application of
fines.

23. Save where otherwise provided by this Act, in so far as they are applicable, the provisions and forms of the Act intituled *An Act respecting summary convictions before Justices of the Peace and Appeals to General Sessions* shall apply to prosecutions and proceedings under this Act except in proceedings on appeal and the practice and procedure upon and with respect to appeals and all proceedings thereon and thereafter shall be governed by the *Act respecting the Procedure on Appeals to the Judge of a County Court from Summary Convictions*, and no other appeal shall be had or shall lie save under the Act last aforesaid.

Application of
Rev. Stat. c.
74, and Rev.
Stat. c. 75.

