

- A.J. McDonald asks permission to build five or six new cabins in Quetico, as sleeping in tents in winter is out of season. Also considers tin stoves a waste of money.

- A.J. builds ice house at French Lake as cannot live without one in summer.

- A.J. tells rangers to stop building cabins in summer and follow tourists to make sure they obey regulations.

- Quetico Park maps are so inaccurate as to be altogether useless.

- Diamond drilling for iron in Quetico near Saganagons.

- Telephone line to fire ranger cabins commenced (finished in 1925). Kawene - French - Sturgeon - Lonely - Jean - Badwater - Beaverhouse - Flanders, with a branch to Shelley - Kawnipi - Agnes - Meadows and Prairie Portage. Ontario Forestry Branch (fire protection) paid C.N. operator \$40/month to relay messages to the Chief Ranger at Fort Frances. Moose often became tangled in the wires, so much so, that, to celebrate the rare times when the line actually did work, staff would have a party.

- A.J. said, "I prefer canvas-covered Chestnut canoes but all the men advise the use of Peterborough canoes, owing to the rocky nature of the country. The Peterborough is of wood only and less liable to damage; if damaged it may be repaired by strips of tin tacked on."

- One U.S. commercial fisherman on Basswood Lake, who often fished the Canadian side, told his helper to keep watch for a red canoe (Ranger Bill Darby) rounding Merriam Bay Point. If seen, they quickly pulled up their nets.

- No logging yet in Quetico in 1915.

- Many caribou reported in Quetico in 1915.

- Only two Indian women observed on Kawa Bay at former Indian Reserve 24C.

- Death of Deputy Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, Aubrey White, whose life was devoted to keeping lumber companies satisfied and raising timber revenue to its highest point. He boasted that, since 1867 he had sold 12,000 square miles of timber and brought in 40 million dollars in revenue. "The people of Ontario have been relieved of taxation by the sale of the natural resources of the Province."

August 24, 1915 - Ice in waterpail. Garden at French Lake completely destroyed (even potatoes)!

#### 1916

- Quetico Park staff of superintendent plus nine men (three men had enlisted; seven fire rangers hired from May to September).

- 13 cabins now scattered throughout Quetico.

- Ice very unsafe this year. Three men fell through ice - A.K. McDonald himself, Bill Darby (32 minutes in water), and Bill Both, who had snowshoes on.

- A.J. wants to extend Park boundaries northward because present zigzag boundary is difficult to enforce.

- Brass monuments (boundary markers) installed on Monument Portage from Swamp Lake to Ottertrack Lake.

- 200 metal Quetico Park boundary signs installed.

- Wooden fire tower erected in Quetico.

- Shevlin Clarke preparing to log in west part of Quetico this winter.

- Prospecting for iron in This Man Lake and Jasper Lake.

country was discovered at Nickel Lake. Twenty-five were counted and there were many more. This is the first large herd to be seen here for many years. Perhaps they are looking for the Quetico Park Reserve where they will be allowed to roam at leisure without fear of being killed by hunters.

December 14, 1916 - A.J. McDonald says he never saw the wolves so numerous or so ravenous as they are this winter. Deer and moose are scarce in the Park, having gone to some other part of the District. He says that fisher and lynx are very numerous, also otter. So far no person appears to be trapping beaver in the Reserve as they do not seem to understand the new regulations and are afraid of getting into trouble.

October 12, 1916 - Open season was ordered for otter and beaver in Ontario (including Quetico Park). This was the first open season for these animals in Ontario for 20 years. Trapping in Quetico was to be done under the supervision of A.J. McDonald. Very little trapping, if any, was actually done, for the reasons outlined above.

- Silver fox skin sells for \$1,500.

- A cook in a nearby lumber camp could serve moose meat in more forms than any other man living.

J.A. Osborne, editor of the Fort Frances Times, wrote the following account of his visit to Quetico Park in 1916: "Arriving at French Portage, a short walk of a quarter of a mile to French Lake, where another and larger gasoline boat was waiting soon brought us to Headquarters where we were warmly welcomed by Mrs. McDonald. Here to our surprise we found all the comforts of a modern house.

"A well-built log house with logs neatly hewn and the inside covered with beaver board was most homelike and the spacious rooms and office were all spic and span. A furnace in the basement heated the house and a flowing well also in the basement supplied the water-works, giving everything an air of comfort. Around the house a good-sized clearing with a generous stock of vegetables being harvested attested to the care and work of the superintendent. Close by is a substantial log house occupied by a man and his wife as helpers and used by the fire rangers of the Park as Headquarters when in from their respective stations.



Camp on Jean Lake, Quetico Provincial Park.

"One of the most interesting trips was across French Portage to Lake Windigoostigwan, a distance of two miles which we took in company with Superintendent McDonald. This is the portage cut out by Dawson and used by the Voyageurs and Wolseley soldiers at the time of the first Riel Rebellion. Here at the end of the portage can be seen the remains of an old dam where the waters were backed up to admit the landing of the large barges with their tons of supplies and army accoutrements. Old iron kettles, broken and thrown aside, bolts, spikes, anchors and numerous other articles can be picked up almost any place, all marking the spot which was the scene of great activity 50 years ago. The road between the two lakes has been put into good shape by Mr. McDonald so that our trip, which was made with a team and light wagon, was a big improvement over the trail as it was even years ago.