

INTO THE ADIRONDAOKS.

THE RAILROAD EXTENSION THAT HAS LONG BEEN NEEDED.

LAKE PLACID, July 11.—Until within less than two years there were only two routes by which visitors from the East could enter the heart of the Adirondacks, which is that region lying north of the higher peaks. Marov. MacIntyre, Seward, and Giant of the Valley. Even visitors from the West and South were obliged, for the most part, to take one of the two routes from the eastward; for the connections by way of the St. Lawrence River required too much staging, and the access from the southward, by way of Schroon, Indian, Racquette, or Blue Mountain Lakes had altogether too much boating and carrying to suit the majority of visitors. One of the routes above noted was by rail to Westport, on Lake Champlain, and thence by stage, through Elizabethtown, 35 miles to Lake Placid, 43 miles to the Saranac Lakes, or 48 miles to Paul Smith's. The other route was by the branch railway out of Plattsburg up the valley of the Au Sable River to the forks, or Point of Rocks, and thence by stage up the west branch of the Au Sable, through Wilmington, 28 miles to Lake Placid; or through Franklin Falls and to the northward of Old Whiteface Mountain, a good 38 miles to Paul Smith's.

All this has been revolutionized within the space of about two seasons. As late as the Summer of 1886 the Chateaugay Railroad extended from Plattsburg only as far as Lyon Mountain, 34 miles. Before the season of 1887, however, the road had been extended 20 miles beyond Lyon Mountain to Loon Lake. A daily stage began to run from the lake to Saranac Lake village, 22 miles; and another stage to Paul Smith's, 13 miles—both of which drives were so shortened as to cause much favorable comment among travelers. Indeed, it was thought to be a great achievement that one could leave Plattsburg at 9:30 A. M. and dine in Saranac Lake village. To-day the visitor, by reason of an extension of the railroad 12 miles to Bloomingdale and 6 miles beyond that to Saranac Lake village, can leave Saratoga at 8:30 A. M., dine in Plattsburg, and take an early tea at Loon Lake, either of the Saranac Lakes, Paul Smith's, or Lake Placid. Thus it is possible for the traveler from New-York to leave by the night boats or by the midnight trains, meeting the traveler from Boston or the West in Albany in time to take a train for the north at 7 o'clock and carry out whatever programme he wishes in accordance with the distances and the card noted above.

The Chateaugay Railroad winds up the valley of the Saranac River from Plattsburg, passes the Clinton Prison at Dannemora, and runs within sight of Chazy and Upper Chateaugay Lakes as it twists about Lyon Mountain. It is a narrow-gauge road, and the small engine tugs a good deal to overcome the grade of 2,300 feet in 34 miles. It might seem to the new traveler in this region that if the road were running 38 miles further into the Adirondacks there would be a constant rise. But instead of that there is a gradual descent toward Saranac Lake village, the height of which is only 1,800 feet. On the way thither from Lyon Mountain we pass Plumadore Pond, Loon Lake, (with a stage drive of three miles to the hotels,) round Pond and Bloomingdale, (with a stage drive of six miles to Paul Smith's on Lower St. Regis Lake.) At the terminus, in Saranac Lake village, stage drives of one mile bring us to Alexander's and Miller's hotels on the lake, new buildings, each with a capacity of about 1,000 guests; 12 miles to Saranac Inn, (formerly the Prospect House, and better known as the place where President Cleveland tarries;) and 17 miles to Adirondack Ledge, in the heart of the wilderness. We end our railroad ride at the head of the Saranac Valley, having never left it except to travel along the height of land which divides it from the St. Regis, Salmon, and Chateaugay Rivers running into the St. Lawrence; and from the Chazy River the northernmost stream that empties into Lake Champlain. The Saranac Lakes are close to the divide which shoves the waters northward and westward into the St. Lawrence. On the south Amper sand and Mount Seward divide the waters that run to the Hudson River. Travelers from Paul Smith's, Saranac Inn, and the new resorts of Miller's and Alexander's on the lower Saranac Lake report that the season has opened earlier than usual and that the hotels are rapidly filling up.

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