

area of 335 square miles and a depth of 10 feet or less throughout its whole extent.

The areas of some of the most important lakes occurring in the belt portion of the region are given in the following table:

Areas of Lakes in the Clay Belt.

	Square miles
Abitibi.....	335
Timiskaming.....	120
Expanse.....	60
Kewagama.....	48
Lac des Quinze.....	40
La Motte and Okikeska.....	40
Shabogama.....	25
De Montigny and lake Lemoine.....	22
Sifton.....	20
Opasatika.....	20

The river courses in the clay belt were determined originally by slope of the surface of the lacustrine clay so that they must be regarded as consequent streams developed on the surface of a constructional plain. They have cut their way through the clay to the underlying bedrock places, however, and are thus in the initial stages of superposition on the Pre-Cambrian rock surface beneath. At the points where the rivers have been superposed on the bedrock they are interrupted by rapids and waterfalls; but, between these interruptions, where they travel through the clay, there are long sinuous stretches of quiet, almost currentless water.

The rivers of the clay belt are remarkably similar, winding back and forth through the wooded, swampy, clay flats with monotonous regularity. Well developed meanders are not common, although here and there among the small tributary streams both meanders and cut-offs are present. In proportion to the volume of water which they discharge the clay belt rivers have remarkably wide and deep channels, a feature which probably owes its origin to the erosive action of the high water in the spring, and to the soft unconsolidated clay in which they have their courses.

Since the lacustrine clay was deposited for the most part in the lowland portions of the region, all the important rivers, with the exception of those draining directly into the lower Ottawa from the southern upland belt, necessarily traverse the clay belt in at least parts of their courses. South of the St. Lawrence-Hudson Bay divide, all the streams are tributary to one trunk drainage channel, the upper Ottawa, which traverses the clay belt in a general east-west direction from Wapuskas lake to lake Timiskaming, a distance of approximately 100 miles. North of the divide, on the other hand, the drainage of the clay belt is divided between three wholly separate river systems: Abitibi, Harricanaw, and