

valleys at several places, but the southern escarpment is a continuous and imposing feature, rising in places to a height of 1,000 feet above the river.

Except perhaps from the top of Mount McKay near Fort William there is not a more spacious view to be obtained anywhere in Ontario as that from the high points of the ridges south of Eganville along which the Opeongo road runs. From any of these points the broad trough of the Bonnechere with its large lakes is seen in the foreground; beyond this are the ridges between the Bonnechere and Muskrat lake valley, then the ridges between Muskrat lake and the Ottawa valley, beyond which is seen the great escarpment of the Laurentian highlands of Quebec 45 miles away. (See fig. 2.)

Renfrew, the largest town in the Ottawa valley had its beginning in circumstances connected with the lumber industry in 1820. The reader is referred to "The Story of Renfrew", by Mr. W. E. Smallpiece, for details concerning the early settlement and history. Only a few references bearing on the particular phase of the development we are considering will be given. "Before 1833, Captain Bell started a mill at Castleford, better known as First Chute. This mill was never a success as it was a difficult place to maintain a dam. In 1834, Messrs. Miller and Carmichael built a grist mill on a little dam on Hurd creek now known as Smith creek. This mill did a thriving business until the establishment of the McDougall mill at the Second chute,

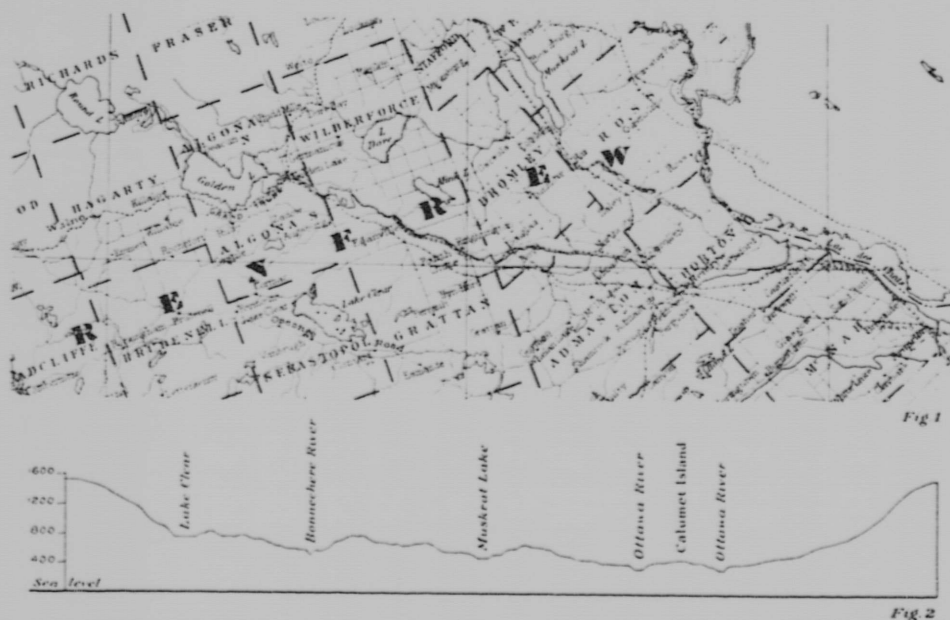


Fig 1. Map of a portion of Renfrew county, showing the Bonnechere river, and its connection with the Ottawa.

Fig. 2. Section from southwest to northwest across the Bonnechere and Ottawa valleys.

Occasional patches of paleozoic rock, principally limestones and shales, extend up almost to Golden lake, but the rocks on which these were laid down, such as granite gneisses or other igneous rocks, are the ones mostly seen. Bedrock of any kind, however, is seldom observed in the broad valley bottom as there is a great thickness of sandy and stony drift over its whole length and on top of these in the lower portion of the valley is a thick layer of stoneless marine clay, except where isolated ridges of bedrock rise above the clay level.

The oldest and youngest rocks in the world may be seen in contact at the first chute, near Castleford, where the marine clay of late Pleistocene age rests on contorted Grenville limestone.

now the falls of the Bonnechere in Renfrew town. Before these mills were built the pioneer settlers in the neighborhood had to go to Prendergrasts, on the Quebec side of the Ottawa river with their grists."

The principal business during the early development of Renfrew was mainly concerned with lumbering. "To be a lumberman in those days was the supremest height to which business ambition could aspire. The small boys of that day played lumbermen with the same zest and earnestness that the small boy of modern times played circus or railway contractor."

The Opeongo road which leads from Renfrew westward up the Bonnechere valley and over the southern escarpment to the upper waters of the