

INDIAN VILLAGE SITES IN NORTH AND SOUTH ORILLIA TOWNSHIPS.

The settled parts of both townships are hilly. The ends of two long ridges come out of the adjoining townships along the west side,—the one out of Medonte into North Orillia, the other out of Oro into South Orillia. Besides these, a long ridge runs through both townships, near Lake Couchiching and parallel with it, for several miles. This prominent line of high ground, which takes a north-easterly direction, is known locally in North Orillia as "The Ridge." It extends as far as the ninth concession of that township, and owing to its isolated position, it is quite a conspicuous feature in the landscape. It deserves our special attention, as it is, in a sense, the barrier that holds back the waters of Couchiching from pouring directly over to Georgian Bay, deflecting them by the Severn River.

At the town line between the north and south townships, there is a break where "The Ridge" in North Orillia is cut off from the high ground in South Orillia. Branches of Silver Creek take rise in this gap, becoming fair-sized streams; and the Midland Railway utilizes it for a passage. Village sites of the early Huron period, some of them quite populous, are found generally along "The Ridge," but are more numerous in the vicinity of the Silver Creek openings than elsewhere.

The "Algonquin" shoreline girdles these hills or ridges, as elsewhere; and this extinct shoreline is marked on the accompanying map to give the altitudes of the different parts of the townships. The "Algonquin" is a strong shoreline everywhere, but in the Orillia townships it is even stronger than elsewhere. The main cutting is



very distinct, and about sixty feet lower the base of the submerged filling also becomes a well-developed shoreline. The term, as used in this report, applies to the main cutting. This main strand of the shoreline, in the vicinity of Silver Creek, attains an altitude of 875 feet above sea level, or 155 feet above Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching.

North Orillia is a large township, but parts of it are still covered with original forest. It has, accordingly, been found unnecessary to show more than a portion of this township on the accompanying map.