

passing the first fifty miles, the country becomes more level, the elevations are more isolated, and a greater extent of fertile land, underlaid by calcareous rocks, is found, excellently adapted for the raising of grains, such as wheat and oats, and all kinds of root crops. Flourishing farms and comfortable houses are seen at many places, and the generally received opinion that the Laurentian country is unfitted for settlement speedily disappears. The fauna and flora of a portion of the district, or rather that area along the River Rouge, was studied by Mr. W. F. M. D'Urban, an assistant to Sir Wm. Logan, in 1858, and a partial list, relating to the mammals, fishes, insects and molluscs will be found in the appendix to the Geological Survey report for that year, while during the last two years a still further study of the plants of the district was made by Mr. R. McDougal, over a much wider area. Among the most abundant of the early flowering plants observed, was the Trailing Arbutus, (*Epigaea repens*) found near Ottawa, at Aylmer and Chelsea, but whose bunches of thick leaves were observed at many points to the North and East. This beautiful and exquisitely scented flower blooms in Nova Scotia as early as March, and in Gaspé was found in blossom in the last week in June. The graceful and fragrant Twin Flower forms perfect carpets in various places in this area, and many of the lakes in August are starred with the beautiful White Water-lily, some of which have blossoms of very large size, their cup-shaped flower sometimes measuring three inches in diameter.

In these Laurentian hills also are hidden great stores of mineral wealth. Mines of mica, graphite, apatite and asbestos are worked extensively in the immediate neighborhood of Ottawa, while the presence of the rarer minerals, such as garnets, zircons, tourmalines, scapolites and feldspars, in beautiful crystals, have made the district well known among collectors all over this continent.

If the members of our Club will bear in mind, when looking out for a pleasant trip for their next holiday season, that in the Laurentian country at our doors, there is a rich field for research in natural history, as well as all the requisites for a profitable outing in every way, we may expect before long to see the waters of our beautiful inland lakes disturbed by the paddles of our canoists, while the cabinets of the students of plant and insect life will be enriched, and much additional material will be provided for the coming issues of the OTTAWA NATURALIST.