

This village is also directly opposite the outlet of Balsam Lake, which is on its eastern side, and this is a strong fact to determine it to be on one of the main routes through the country.

The other trail, about four miles south of this, from West Bay to Lake Simcoe, was overland and was seventeen miles long, and on the northerly trail two and a half miles was the portage, which was quite a factor in the Indians' reckoning as it saved a lot of portaging.

Parkman says that Champlain went from the Huron country to the Bay of Quinte with a large party of Hurons to attack the Iroquois in 1615, and it would be interesting to know which route he took. If he intended to use the same canoes all the way that he started with, from the west side of Lake Simcoe he would naturally ascend the Talbot river and portage across the divide near this village site.

If, on the other hand, he expected to get canoes at this lake, he would proceed overland by the long portage to West Bay. I am inclined to think he followed the first route, for, evidently, these towns were forsaken before Champlain's time and the country depopulated or uninhabited by reason of fear of the Iroquois, so thus he would have to depend on the "material" he would start with. It was obvious he could not detain his party *en route* to manufacture enough canoes for so large a party as he would have.

That this section of country was depopulated at that time is believed to be so by the fact that the Jesuits make no mention of any large centres of population. If these had existed there would have been Jesuits there to propagate the teachings of the Catholic Church, as they did elsewhere. And that these villages did not exist since the Hurons' time is shown by the fact that as yet no traces of contact with white men have been found on four known and explored sites in this township. See page 77, 4th Report.

The solution of the problem of who erected these towns and inhabited them may be left to conjecture. What is beyond doubt is that they existed previous to the advent of the French, and with these may be classed the sites on waters east and south of here, though these would need to be thoroughly examined before opinions could be given.

It is not definitely known how the Hurons got to their country. They were there when the French came and were akin to the Tobacco nation to their immediate west, and to the Neutrals to the south-west, and were of Iroquois stock. If they came from the east they probably occupied this region for a period in their westwardly drift; or they may have come into their own country from the west, conquered this people, and assimilated the survivors at a period previous to their being known to the whites.

This region may have been the westerly limit of the Hochelagans, who, according to Dawson, inhabited the Island of Montreal and the country to the north and west of the St. Lawrence. From this tribe the Hurons may have sprung and survived.

It is known that the Hurons and Iroquois were of one common stock. Having become separated by time and distance, they appeared as two distinct nations at the time of the arrival of the French. So much so that there was bitter enmity between them, which ended in the extermination of the Hurons, as they—the Hurons—had probably exterminated the inhabitants of this region before they themselves were attacked by the Iroquois.

The region in question will stand a great deal of investigation, as it extends from here to the Ottawa river, and as far south as Lake Ontario.

Numerous details of the implements, ornaments and burials, while showing affinity to those of the Hurons, present some features which are totally wanting