

The country north of the Madawaska and Muskoka Rivers, and south of the River Mattawa, Lake Nipissing and French River may be denominated the "Ottawa and Georgian Bay Country." It contains the best lands now to be settled in Upper Canada. This section has three slopes, and may be more conveniently described by its rivers than by any other method. There are three principal rivers running eastward, three westward, and six northward into the Mattawa, Lake Nipissing and French River. The principal of the easterly rivers is the Madawaska, it drains about a fifth part of the country under consideration. The main body of the river runs through a well settled and thriving country. Its southerly branches drain good agricultural lands; its northern branch, the Opeongo, is somewhat rough, but a very good timber country. The Great Opeongo Lake seems to be the coronal region of the Ottawa and Huron country. Fifty miles of the Valley of the "Bonnehochere" is a fine fertile wheat growing country. The next twenty miles is chiefly sandy lands that have been scorched with fires; but the lands at the sources of this river are covered with a magnificent forest of red pines. The River Pittawawa is the marplot in this country, as well as its congener, the Magnetawan, heading from it and running into the Georgian Bay. The lands along those rivers are not favorable for agricultural purposes, but are good for, and should be reserved for lumber berths. These two rivers form the southern boundary or limit of the Lake Nipissing and French River slope. The six rivers discharging northward drain a large amount of arable land, except the middle one emptying into French River, is rough and a lumber river, it is called by the Indians "Meinesaganaing," signifying *Red headed Woodpecker*. The lower tributary of the French River, called "La Petite Recollect," is rough and *piney* in its lower part, but the middle and upper reaches have fine lakes, and white oak lands.

There are small rivers emptying into the "Key," a long narrow bay near the French River, having some delightful spots on them for settlement.

The Magnetawan, discharging into Byng's Inlet, has been already described. There are fine hardwood lands on a river emptying into the Franklin Inlet, a deep indentation of ten or twelve miles on the east of the Georgian Bay, about midway between the French River and the Muskoka. The lower part of the Muskoka is rough and *piney*, but the middle and upper parts are bounded with fine lands, with oak and black walnut timber, which always bespeak themselves good soil to grow upon.

*Ans. to Ques. 3.* Although I worked during three winters in the Nipissing country, I did not keep a register or record of the state of the weather for a number of days consecutively. But I have always judged it very similar to the climate of the City of Ottawa, and considerably colder than that of Toronto. In 1856 I left the mouth of French River on the 5th of May and arrived in Toronto on the 8th and found that vegetation was no farther advanced on the shores of Lake Ontario than on the north east of the Georgian Bay that year. I suppose that that year was an exception with regard to Toronto.

I have always considered that the climate of Lake Nipissing is very near the same as that of the City of Ottawa, which is two or three degrees milder in winter than that of Montreal. Ten miles west of the base of the mountainous range, north of the Ottawa River, makes a considerable difference in the temperature and about a third less snow.

*Ans. to Ques. 4.* The timber is very much mixed in this whole country, of course there are many tracts of hardwood, and also of green or fir-bearing wood, to the exclusion of the other—but the best land is that on which is mixed timber. The hardwoods, are maple, beach, birch, ironwood, basswood, occasionally white oak, and a variety of small hardwood. The fir wood is chiefly Pine, both red and white, spruce, balsam, cedar, and hemlock, with an occasional tamarack swamp.

*Ans. to Ques. 5.* In the Counties of Lanark and Renfrew, on the Ottawa Slope, all kinds of grain and vegetables common to the most favoured parts of Canada, are successfully cultivated. Any of the well managed and cultivated farms on the Ottawa, from the Rideau to the Pittawawa, will yield from twenty to thirty bushels of fall wheat in good seasons, and two or three tons of hay per acre is no uncommon thing. Hay, corn, potatoes and oats, have been successfully grown on Lakes Nipissing and Temiscaming, by Indians and lumbermen.

*Ans. to Ques. 6.* It will be seen by Answer 5, that the soil and climate is well adapted for agricultural purposes, in the Ottawa and Huron country.