

THE VILLAGE SITES OF FLOS.

This township, at its northwest corner, has a frontage of about three miles on Georgian Bay,—a frontage which, although small in some respects, is of more than ordinary importance, archaeologically, as it contains the outlet of Nottawasaga River, outlets of rivers being always important places in the life of the aborigines. Its Ojibway name,—Nahdoway-Saga,—meaning the "saga" or outlet of the river of the Nahdoways, signified that the outlet was a place of some importance even in the pre-Ojibway times when another race dwelt in the locality. Before reaching its outlet, the course of the river receives a great deflection to the west, passing nearly across Sunnidale township. It then passes through a range of high sand-dunes, which extends for many miles near the shore of the bay, and in this part has several crooked windings, one part being known as the Ox-bow. After passing through the largest sand-dunes, and just before entering Georgian Bay, it makes another sweep to the northeast, and comes back nearly opposite to the point which it left, nearly ten miles up, yet not more than three miles in a direct course. For the last four miles of its course it runs nearly parallel with the shore of the bay, and only a short way from it.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF FLOS.

It will be impossible to investigate the Indian occupation of this township with any thoroughness, without taking into account some of its physical features, and the recent, or surface, geology of the township, especially at the outlet of the river, and a few other places along its course. The extensive tract of sandy land lying within the large bend of the river is known as the Huckleberry Plains. Behind the range of sand-dunes there is a basin of flat land, and in this basin, Jack's Lake, which is a lake expansion of the river in Sunnidale township. It covers some 300 acres when the river is not flooded, and has marshy land extending beyond its margin for some distance. It is a remnant or survival of a much larger inland lake which covered parts of Flos and Sunnidale a few centuries ago, and whose bed (now dry except for this and another small lake known as Marl Lake) was too recent in age to collect many relics of the Indians. This inland lake existed really as a prolongation of the Georgian Bay up the valley. A large sand bar (now the range of dunes) was thrown across the lower end of the bay, and separated this lake from the main body of water. Some extensive peat deposits around Jack's Lake, however, seem to show that, although of a very recent date geologically, these deposits have taken a long time to accumulate, and that the lake in its present form, or something very similar, has been of long duration. Sometimes the level of this lake rises in springtime, with the flooding of the river, as in the Vespera lake-expansion. Then, there have been some oscillations of its level in the past, which it is not easy to understand. Modern Ojibway Indians of this district have a tradition of a change in the height of the water. "At first," they say, "the water was low; then it riz, and you could sail a two-masted schooner where before there was dry land." I have heard this tradition only in connection with the Cold-water arm of Georgian Bay, but if true of one arm, it must be true of the whole, as water keeps its own level. And certainly the buried timber or forest beds, and layers of vegetable matter engulfed beneath thick sand measures throughout the low ground, bear credible testimony of such a capricious fluctuation in the level of the water.

About eleven feet higher than Jack's Lake, and two miles distant from it, is Marl Lake in Flos, covering some 200 acres, and having marshy margins. A stream flows from Marl Lake to the river. This lake is a rem-