

to the south-west. The banks in the lower part are at first four or five feet high, behind which is another slight rise but this gradually disappears and in a distance of five miles both banks and the rise behind have disappeared and the stream is running in a very shallow channel. The ridge to the west becomes less distinct though the Indians report a continuous ridge to Reed lake. A small lake on the west branch of this stream being situated to the west of the general course of the valley is in a break in the higher ground of the ridge and has on its western shore several exposures of limestone. These beds are similar to those at the base of the Cormorant lake reddish beds, and are evidently near the base of the Niagara, though no fossils could be found to prove the horizon. Above this lake the country is generally flat and swampy and no exposures of the underlying rocks are to be seen, but on the last portage, which is made to the shores of Reed lake, pieces of red sandy limestone are found which evidently come from the shore of the lake and represent the basal beds of the Trenton which must be here very thin. The small hills near the lake seem to be of morainic origin but are probably made up principally of material from the denuded edges of the limestone beds beneath. Trenton rocks are found elsewhere on this lake so that their presence here is certain.

Of the surface features observed on this stream and Cormorant lake it might be of interest to note that the soil of the country near Cormorant lake is thin over the limestone ridges but in the valleys, such as that of Cowan river, a good quality and depth was observed. Between Cowan river and Cormorant lake there is a strip of fair-sized spruce. This is seen to extend up the river as far as the banks are high, but above this the principal tree is tamarack (larch). A long strip of country along the eastern face of the high ridge west of the lake is burnt over and the timber is dead.

Minago River

This stream rises in a low swamp north of the north-east extremity of Moose lake. The Indians occasionally travel by this stream from Moose lake to Cross lake and the route thus followed is practicable for small canoes. A survey of the stream was made by Mr. A. S. Cochrane of this Department in July, 1880, and from his notes the following brief description of the upper or that section above Hill lake is compiled. The lower portion was visited by Mr. Tyrrell in 1896 and his description is given in part of this report.

Minago river
above Hill
lake.