

DRAINAGE.

Two distinct types of streams are found in Matachewan area, corresponding to the thickness of the drift cover. Where the drift is thin, the watercourses are simply a series of currentless expansions, varying in size from good sized lakes to deep, sluggish creeks. The currentless parts are separated from each other by barriers of rock or boulders, over which the water finds its way in rapids or falls. This type is found mainly in the western part of Midlothian, Montrose, and Hincks townships. Where the drift is thicker, so that streams have not eroded to bedrock, the water courses are well graded, meandering channels of fairly uniform width, lakes are absent except at the headwaters where the streams are too small to have eroded the drift below the level of the lake bottom. Rapids and falls are also absent, except where ridges of rock cross the streams or large boulders have accumulated. Duncan, Whitefish, and Nighthawk creeks, with their various branches, which drain the major part of the district west of Montreal river, are all of this type.

The townships situated between the west branch of Montreal river and Niven's base-line are not drained by any one large stream, but are the gathering ground of a number of streams. The Height of Land passes through this area, in a northeasterly direction, through the eastern part of Midlothian, across the southeast corner of Montrose, the northwest corner of Bannockburn; and the southeast corner of Argyle. The territory to the southeast of the Height of Land is all drained by creeks tributary to Montreal river. The principal of these is Duncan creek, draining the greater part of Doon and Bannockburn townships, the northwestern corner of Midlothian, and the adjacent part of Montrose. It empties into the head of Duncan lake. Another good-sized creek is Powell creek, which empties into Montreal river near the north end of Powell township. It drains the northern part of Bannockburn and the southeastern part of Argyle, and forms the best route for entering the district from Montreal river.

The part of Matachewan district northwest of the Height of Land is broken by a secondary divide which runs in a direction slightly north of west across the northern part of Montrose township. The streams to the north of this divide drain to Hudson bay through Nighthawk river, one of the main tributaries of the Moose. They include the various branches of Whitefish and Nighthawk creeks, which run north in practically parallel courses 6 to 8 miles apart, as far as Nighthawk lake, into which both discharge. To the south of the divide the creeks drain to the west into Grassy river, reaching Hudson bay through Mattagami and Moose rivers. There are two main creeks also in this part. The one rises in Midlothian lake, flows northwest to Moose lake, and west to Grassy river. The other, of about equal size, rises in Lloyd lake and flows southwest to the Grassy.

At the foot of mount Sinclair lies Sinclair lake, one of those bodies of water peculiar to glaciated regions, in that it possesses more than one outlet. This lake lies directly on the Height of Land, and has three outlets, one to Whitefish creek, the waters of which eventually reach Hudson bay, the others to different branches of Duncan creek whose waters find their way finally to the gulf of St. Lawrence.