

The River Blanche, which derives its name from the white or turbid colour of its water, discharges into Lake Temiscaming at its "Head," and is navigable for twenty-five miles. The area of the clay land drained by this river has been estimated to be between 500 and 600 square miles, equivalent to twelve townships of fifty square miles, or 32,000 acres each. This is the largest area of land fit for settlement, in one unbroken clay block, in the unsettled portion of Ontario.

The limit southward of this tract of good level country is associated with a change occurring in the quality of the rock formations of the district in the vicinity of the mouth of the Montreal River on the right side of the lake, and a few miles higher up on the left. The unbroken monotony of the hard syenitic gneiss, constituting so much of the banks of the lake and main river further down, here ceases; a more distinctly stratified set of rocks, of a less crystalline and more easily disintegrating character, presents itself. The ranges of the hills become more determinate, the valleys wider, and many of them are occupied by clay lands. At its very extremity both sides of the lake present a favourable aspect; good stratified limestone there makes its appearance, constituting the large islands already mentioned, and the promontory separating the east and west bays. Its escarpment does not exceed 100 feet, and it runs northward into the interior with an even continuity of height, which can be followed by the eye for miles.

The marshes, arising from the sediment deposited by the Blanche and other rivers at their mouths, are extensive, and produce an abundant supply of good meadow hay.

The general character of the country south and east of Lake Tamagamingue is undulating but not very broken. This lake is a fine sheet of very clear water, abounding with bass, pickerel, pike, and salmon trout, and filled with islands. The scenery is beautiful, resembling that of the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence. This lake has two outlets, one flowing south into the Sturgeon River, which empties into Lake Nipissing, and the other flowing north into the Montreal River, which discharges into Lake Temiscaming. Numerous lakes, of various sizes, are dotted at intervals over this country. Otter Tail Creek is the principal stream falling into the Ottawa.

Throughout the whole of this region there is good clay soil along the flats of the rivers and creeks; generally, however, a sandy loam prevails.