

into the Ottawa near this place, the Gateno from the north and the Rideau from the south, and generally a good surrounding country. All these things were flattering even to overcome the disagreeable sensation of thinking that I was 120 miles from all business, and 80 miles from any settlement; however, I was determined to use every exertion that lay in my power, with a full hope and expectation that at some future period, it would become a second Montreal; such was then my opinion and is now, from convincing proofs from twenty years' experience. Since that time I have commenced clearing and building, and have also laid down the site of a village fit for business, which has answered my expectations in every respect."

There were several organized settlements directed into this region at a later date, and some of the sites may have been as deliberately chosen as the above with regard to water power. It is probable, however, that most of the locations were chosen with regard to suitable farming land first and the site for the mills decided on later.

In 1806, Mr. Wright sent the first raft of logs from Hull township to Quebec and we read elsewhere that lumbering on the Bonnechere river was begun in the year 1820. It is probable that much of the early settlement followed in the wake of lumbering operations, as the settlers in the outlying districts were able to sell grain and pork to the lumberman, who was in fact their only customer. Skilled labour, such as coopers, millwrights, blacksmiths, and wagon-makers, was in much demand both by the lumber companies and the farmers.

We find many instances of settlers taking up land within the borders of the Laurentian plateau in preference to the valley plain lands, because the bottom lands were either too wet or the forest growth was so heavy that much labour and time had to be expended before a crop was sown and harvested. On the other hand the upland contained patches of thinly-wooded, light soils, on which with very little expenditure of labour a crop of potatoes could be grown during the first season of occupation.

While the upland farm provided an immediate support for a settler and his family he generally found before many years had passed that it would be wise to secure land in the valley plain if possible. The necessity for this change became apparent when the light soils of the upland became exhausted unless replenished with stable manure which, however, was not always available in sufficient quantity, and also because of a certain degree of isolation, which was inevitable owing to the rugged character of the land. Hence the farmer often acquired clay land in the valley plain adjacent to the upland, and making this the mainstay for his support, turned his upland farm into a pasture and wood lot for fuel.

The construction of colonization roads over the valley plain gave access to those lands which were not accessible from the rivers and gradually the process of clearing, draining and cultivation was accomplished over the whole area.

Whatever prosperity and growth the towns achieved since the first settlers began cultivation have been due almost entirely to the productiveness of the land and the variety of products which could be raised upon it. Lumbering, railways, industries, and mining have contributed their share but the fundamental cause of prosperity was and still is agriculture.

#### MINING.

Although mining of various minerals has been carried on for the last 70 years in portions of the Ottawa valley we cannot point to any town or village which has grown up in the neighbourhood of an ore body and supported wholly by mining such as the towns of Cobalt, Timmins, and Sudbury in Northern Ontario. One very evident reason is that so far there has not been an ore body of the right kind of sufficiently large dimensions to ensure the building of a mining town in its vicinity.

Iron mining never fulfilled its early promise to become one of the permanent industries of the region, and although there are several bodies of iron ore in Pontiac, Lanark and Renfrew counties, they are not commercial ores from the present day point of view. These ores, however, constitute a reserve for the future when economic conditions permit of their treatment for use.

The village of Bristol Mines in Pontiac County, Quebec, is an example of the beginnings of a centre due to mining development, but it never attained to any size and is now practically deserted.

Pyrite and molybdenite are the principal metallic minerals mined now in the Ottawa valley. The occurrence and exploitation of the large deposit of the latter mineral in the vicinity of the village of Quyon, in Pontiac county, has recently caused a considerable influx of business to that point. The non-metallic minerals have been the most important sources of revenue in this region. These include graphite, mica, phosphate, feldspar and limestone as the principal ones, with celestite, barite and fluorite as minor occurrences.

Mining is generally a costly business when compared with agriculture, and much money is expended in hardware and other equipment and for labour among the communities where it is carried on. It gives employment to the farming population of the upland districts during their spare time especially in the winter, when they formerly depended on lumbering operations as a source of wages.

(To be continued)