

on Lake Manitoba during certain storms a peculiar roar was heard, caused by the unusual conformation of the shores upon which the waves beat. Though the Indian's hearing was phenomenally acute, he had no knowledge of the principles of sound, and so in his customary way decided that this uncommon noise was due to the presence of a spirit.

As regards the first part of this name it is worthy of remark that the Indian's conception of a spirit was much wider, or perhaps I should say deeper than ours, for it ran all the way from "Kitchi Manitou" the Almighty, the Great Spirit, down to "Manitous" the little spirits, which was the name that he applied to the insects that fluttered and hummed and buzzed around him on a warm summer day.

*Saskatchewan.* Kissiskahchewun, "There are rapids". This is the name given to the great river of the country wherein they lived by the western Crees. They called themselves Kissiskahchewun-ethinuk.

That there should be considerable difference between the dialect spoken by them and that spoken by their cousins on the Ottawa is but natural. The difference in their surroundings and mode of life would account for it.

The plain Crees were men of the open spaces. They were free to travel in any direction desired, either by land or water. The buffalo was their great staple. On its flesh they fed; of its skin they made their clothing and their lodges, and under its robes they slept.

On the other hand the Ojibwa and eastern Crees, while their living was more varied, had to work harder for it. Fish formed a large part of it. The canoe was indispensable to them as the only roads they had were the trails over the portages. Hedged in by interminable forests and impenetrable swamps they were forced to keep close to the streams and lakes.

In one word they summed all this up—Nopiming—"In the woods". For Nopiming when resolved into its root-words denotes "back from the shore". And so it was, for when off the waters they were of necessity in the woods.

*Ottawa.* This name is generally connected with that of the Ottawa Indians. There is a connection but it is only an indirect one. There is no reliable evidence that the Ottawa Indians ever lived on the Ottawa river. In fact such evidence as can be found is to the contrary, even though the largest county on its banks is named after Pontiac, their great war chief.

Their country was on the north of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. Their name meant "The Traders", "adowe" being a root-word denoting trade, and was occasioned by the fact that it was

by and through them that a system of barter was carried on between the natives north and west of Lake Huron and those east of it. They were a numerous people and their trade a very desirable one. It is true they claimed sovereign rights over the Ottawa river, but it seems to have been only an empty boast.

There are some maps of old date, upon which this river is named the Ottawa, but it was not then so called by the Indians or whites who lived upon its shores or frequented its waters. By the former it was spoken of, as it is yet in its upper reaches, as Kitchi sibi, and by the latter as the Grand river, a literal translation of the Indian name.

In the days of the voyageurs, owing to dread of the Iroquois who were masters of the upper St. Lawrence, the great trading route between Montreal and the lakes was by way of what we now call the Ottawa and the French rivers, and it is probable that the former, from being originally spoken of as the river of the Ottawas, at last came to be known as the Ottawa river.

*Quyon.* I have been informed on reliable authority that this river took its name from a game which the squaws were accustomed to play on the flats at its mouth.

This game was of the nature of lacrosse. It was played with pointed poles by aid of which the players threw from one to another two round pebbles sewn up in a loose deerskin pouch. The Indians looked upon it with contempt, as only fit for women, and in derision called it Okweawnwi. In time the French voyageurs replaced this with a word of their own of a somewhat similar sound and meaning, but in doing so lost the flavour of Rabelaisian humour which the original word contained.

*Mississippi.* This name as applied to the river running into the Ottawa four miles below Arnprior is evidently a mistake. The Indians called the Ottawa Kitchi sibi. Now Mississippi and Kitchi sibi are only different forms of the same word, meaning the big river, and it is manifest that no one would name a comparatively small river and a much greater one into which it ran both "the Big river".

My sister, when searching the Archives in Ottawa for something having no bearing whatever on this question, came across an early Government return in which this river was referred to as the Mississquoui.

From this it appears as if its original name was Mississquoui, "the river of the big woman", and that white men in time changed it into the, to them, better known name Mississippi.

Of course there is always the possibility that it may have been called Mississippi by the natives on its upper waters, but the names by which we know the great majority of Canadian rivers have been derived from some peculiarity of condition