

INTRODUCTION.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF TAY.

Like the adjoining township of Tiny, the surface of Tay consists mainly of parallel ridges with rivers between them. There is this difference, however: in Tiny most of the ridges lie entirely within the township, but in Tay only the ends are found. One of them crosses the boundary into Tiny, the other two pass southward into Medonte. For convenience I will call the former, which lies between the Wye and *Hogg rivers, the Victoria Harbor ridge, because it ends near Victoria Harbor. The next one, lying between Hogg and Sturgeon rivers, will be called the Vasey ridge, from the name of a village upon it. And the most easterly ridge, between Sturgeon and Coldwater rivers, will be named the Rosemount ridge, from the name of the schoolhouse on its summit. Those parts of the township which lie east of Matchedash bay are rocky—Trenton limestone and Laurentian granite.

For showing the altitude of the land I know of no plan equal to mapping the abandoned beaches. This method has a very important advantage; a person can note by direct observation the lines of equal altitude in these extinct shorelines without going to the trouble of making a detailed survey by the use of levelling instruments. Accordingly, I have observed their positions throughout the township, noting the farms in which they appear, and I give the results of these observations in the accompanying map.

The highest of these old shorelines is the Algonquin beach, which has an altitude of about 250 feet above the present level of Georgian Bay. It is a stupendous freak of Nature—an indelible mark on the face of the country—representing the expenditure of an immense amount of force by strong waves in the removal and assortment of materials. The Algonquin Sea that formed it, washed away such quantities of movable material (clay, sand and gravel) from the exposed northerly ends of the ridges that large tracts of boulders are left. It picked the bones of the ridges as it were and left them bare. A large tract of this kind lies immediately south and east from Elliott's Corners, and similar tracts occur on the Vasey and Rosemount ridges. No Huron village sites occur in these uninhabitable stony tracts.

About 100 feet lower is the main beach of the Great Nipissing series, or about 150 feet above Georgian Bay. To give all four beaches

*I am informed that this river is so called from an early Methodist preacher among the Ojibways.