

*Drainage.*

The rocky uplands, being generally higher than other portions of the district, are the headwater areas in which the streams of the region originate and form the divides or heights of land between drainage basins. In this way it happens that three of the northern upland areas—the Boundary, the Smoky and the Abijevis hills—are situated on the divide between the St. Lawrence and Hudson Bay basins, dividing their drainage between the Abitibi on the north and the Ottawa on the south. The southern upland belt also forms a height of land between two basins which are wholly separate except for the deep Timiskaming gorge which has been incised across the upland belt, thus connecting the upper and lower Ottawa basins into one system. If this connexion were absent, the waters of the upper Ottawa basin would not find an outlet into the St. Lawrence, as at present, but would flow northward across the present height of land, to Hudson bay.

Rivers of the normal type can scarcely be said to exist anywhere in the upland districts of Timiskaming region, the drainage being effected, for the most part, through innumerable lakes connected by rapids and waterfalls. A few of these so-called rivers occupy marked depressions in the rocky surface of the plateau in parts of their courses, but the majority are of the most fortuitous type occupying such indefinite channels, that, in many parts of their courses an obstruction a few feet in height would deflect the river in an entirely different direction. The northern upland areas are limited in extent and on this account are drained entirely by small headwater brooks; whereas the southern upland belt, being much more extensive and continuous with a still larger area of similar upland territory to the eastward, is traversed by streams of considerable size. On its northern slope, it includes the upper Ottawa from Wapusanan lake and Grand lake Victoria eastward, also, the connected groups of lakes forming the upper portions of the basins of the Winiwash and Spruce rivers—tributaries of the Ottawa which traverse the clay belt in the lower parts of their courses. On its western slope the principal river is the Kipawa (Plate IV) which includes Kipawa, Ostaboing, and other large lakes in the southwest part of the region. On the south slope, there is Maganasibi, Dumoine, Black, and Coulange rivers—all important streams flowing southward into the lower Ottawa from the interior uplands.

Of the topographic features which distinguish the Laurentian plateau from other physiographic provinces, probably the most characteristic is the remarkable number of lakes of all shapes and sizes which, everywhere, cover its surface. These are especially abundant, in those districts which like the southern upland belt of the Timiskaming region, are underlain by granitic gneisses. A typical area in this granitic belt