ALGOMA

LGOMA is the largest and, in some respects, most important of the districts into which New Ontario is divided. It extends north from the waters of Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay, a distance of over four hundred miles to James Bay and the Albany River. Its breadth from Nipissing District on the east to Thunder Bay on the west is about 180 miles. A territory so extensive naturally embraces many varieties of soil, climate and production. Much of it is as yet unexplored and the influx of settlement has so far been confined to a narrow fringe adjoining the water front, where the principal attraction has been the rich mineral and timber resources rather than the opportunities presented by the soil for successful agriculture. There is abundance of excellent land for farming and stock raising purposes, but the country, especially that adjacent to the lake shore, is much broken, and the fertile tracts so scattered among the rocky and barren stretches that the real richness and productiveness of the arable tracts have not been properly appreciated.

The general conformation of the country is undulating, its surface being at an elevation of from 600 to 1,000 feet above the level of the sea. The uplands frequently display an outcropping of rock belonging to the Huronian and Laurentian formations. These ridges and escarpments of rock on the higher ground impart an aspect of wildness and sterility to the landscape which is frequently very misleading, as the low-lying tracts and valleys lying between them are usually rich in alluvial soil, and many times as extensive in area as the rocky bluffs and projections which from their more conspicuous position are regarded as the most characteristic features of the country. This false impression as to the great proportion of barren land is especially likely to be formed from an inspection of the land in the neighborhood of portages on the rivers, as the break in the general level of the ground rendering a portage necessary always brings the rocky substratum to the surface.