

LANARK COUNTY.

By DR. T. W. BEEMAN.

The writer had very few opportunities to make any archæological researches during the past summer, and the specimens sent to the museum were obtained for the most part from persons in whose possession they had been for some time.

Only a very few days were spent in actual work, and those days did not yield much. One reason was the unusual height of water on Rideau Lake. We were waiting all summer for low water, but in vain.

While the whole of this district, Lanark county and surrounding country, affords a rich field for the study of the aborigines, the Rideau Lake yields by far the greater number of specimens.

The lake is five or six feet higher than it was when the Indians fished on it, hunted around its shores and lived in their villages in its vicinity.

Where the Tay river empties in the lake, there was, without doubt, a village site that must have been occupied for a great length of time, as the specimens from this place show many different varieties of pattern and great differences in their age.

This place gives more indication of having been a permanent village site than any yet discovered, but so far nothing has been found in the way of earth-works, burial places, or anything of that kind. No careful search has yet been made for earth-works or any permanent structure, and for the reason given above. The water in the lake being five or six feet higher than it was, has converted the surrounding part into a marsh. The greater number, in fact, all the specimens secured from this place, are found right at the water's edge, where they have been washed up by the high winds in the fall or spring, or else washed out of the banks by ice shoving and the action of the water.

The fragments of pottery from this locality are very numerous, but no large pieces are ever obtained. Some of the pottery is comparatively recent and others show a much older appearance.

The bulk of the specimens of flint and slate are neolithic, but fair specimens of chipped stone are not wanting. In most of the chipped specimens found, it was evident that either with intention or from convenience in making the utensil, the maker worked from one side, as, in order to produce a cutting edge, after he had finished one side, he turned it over and worked the other edge in the same way, producing a weapon or tool that in cross section would appear rhomboidal. So far as my observation has gone, this appearance is shown on all the older specimens.

One large celt was found on the shore of the lake twelve or fourteen inches long, and a perfect specimen. It is the largest specimen ever obtained by the writer. Gouges are found more frequently by the water's edge than away from the water. Should this fact in any way account for the use the gouge was put to?

In a former report, mention was made of the absence of implements of bone. This has still been our experience since that time, and it has often been a cause of wonder why it should be so, when other localities yield more or less bone specimens. But one or two pipes have been found, and they were not carved in any way, and no doubt were used more in ordinary life than for any ceremonial event.

One very peculiar polished slate specimen was found in the township of Bathurst on the farm of Edward McDonald, Esq. In cross section, it is bayonet-shaped, one end of it being pointed, the other, chisel-shaped. Had the material been harder, it would seem as though it had been intended for a chisel, but