

Serpent River empties into a deep bay or inlet of Lake Huron about twenty-five miles east of the Mississauga. The bay into which it empties is unsurpassed as a harbour. At the mouth of the river, on the west-erly side, the land is of good quality, but low and level. Ascending the river the scene is rugged and rough, the rock ranges running close to the margin of the stream and parallel to it. In rear, however, on both sides some valleys of good hardwood land are met with, more particularly on the west, being a continuation of the valleys from the east bank of the Mississauga.

Spanish River, which is navigable for thirty miles to craft not drawing over five feet, falls into an extensive and beautiful bay, land-locked by islands and projecting points from the main land, the communication to the eastward being through a narrow but deep channel, called the Petit Detroit, between the southern extremity of the peninsula and the eastern end of Aird Island. From the Petit Detroit to La Cloche the outline of the coast is irregular, being indented by deep bays and coves, which in some parts are perfectly land-locked by groups of long, low and narrow islands running parallel with the main shore, and affording excellent places of shelter for all classes of vessels under almost any circumstances.

The hills bordering on Spanish River seldom attain a height over 300 feet, but the banks of the river itself are frequently bold, precipitous and rocky. At the great fall a picturesque and imposing ruggedness prevails. A ridge of smoothly polished bare rock rises in rounded knolls, so steep in places, as to be inaccessible, obstructing the south-eastern flow of the river and splitting it into two parts, of which one turns a little to the northward of east, while the other is deflected to a precisely opposite course. The latter, after running above a quarter of a mile, is thrown in a beautiful cascade over a precipice thirty feet high, and then turning abruptly to the eastward rushes violently for thirty chains in that direction, falling in a vertical sheet over three successive steps of five feet each, when it is again united to the other division of the stream in a wide pool of nearly still water.

Much of the country for some distance back from the north side of the river is flat or rolling land, and is almost everywhere covered with a lux-uriant growth of red and white pine.

The extent and value of the pine forest in this region, the facility offered by the river for navigation, the water-power to be found on the