

we have several lakelets remaining, although rapidly silting up ; of these it is necessary only to mention Lake Medad, near Waterdown, and Puslinch Lake, east of Hespeler. Again, too, by way of contrast, this district attains an altitude varying from over five hundred feet to over seven hundred above Lake Ontario, thus showing us another more ancient extension of the present Lakes Erie and Huron.

Tracing the rivers of the first, the most northerly mentioned district to their sources, we find in the counties of Simcoe, Grey, Dufferin, North Wellington, North Perth and Bruce, the largest and most important area of all, possessing the same general characteristics—the highest part nearest the front of the escarpment, and a slope thence westward and northward ; beautiful lakelets, bilberry and tamarack swamps, broken by ridges of stratified gravel and fine, clear streams of pure water. Often the gravel ridges guide the course of the streams, suggesting, as has been already remarked in the case of the Saugeen branches, a deep valley of erosion, a view dispelled by a more thorough examination. Often, too, where the land has been cleared and drained giving a fertile tract to the farmer, the view from one of these ridges is entrancing indeed. The cleared plain, through which the stream meanders, rolls away to the next distant ridge mayhap three, mayhap ten miles ; here is a strip of uncleared swamp land, the home of the *Linnaea borealis* and of the pitcher-plant, and the haunt of the white-throated sparrow and of the blue jay ; there is one of the many charming, tree-embowered lakelets that dot the landscape of this northern area. Here as before we see the extension still further of the present great lakes, or rather in the great lakes we see the remnant of a once great fresh-water sea which covered the whole western peninsula of Ontario. Now, bearing in mind that the last described area has a mean elevation of eleven hundred feet above Lake Ontario, and that the proof of this having been once submerged is evident, let us state the full significance of this and briefly recapitulate the steps by which our river-valleys, so imperfectly described above, have originated.

A submergence which would place the summit of our western peninsula, Dundalk, Grey Co., seventeen hundred feet above the level of the sea, beneath the waves, would cover not only the whole of Ontario as far as the "Height of Land," or the Laurentides north of the Ottawa, but would submerge all Quebec except the mountains