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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 27 1905

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or that have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,
Geographer.

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

Rydal Bank ✓
Ottawa lake
Och Algoma Dist.

1 Nydal Bant's is Named after a Place of the
Same Name in Lancashire England by a
Gentleman who was the first-settler here and
who Originally came from Nydal Bant's England
his name was James Robinson. The first name
given to this place was Ottutail Lake named
that because of a Point of Land that Resembles
an Otter's Tail that runs in to a small Lake
near-by The Change of name was made when
the first P.O. was established when it was
called Nydal Bant's with James Robinson as
first-Postmaster. he died about 10 years ^{about 1895}
ago in England leaving all his family in this
Country some of them still living near here

The writer of this W.R. Smythe (M.P.P. Algoma)
has been Postmaster here since 1883 Prior to
that date lived on a farm being the first
settler after Mr Robinson in this part of Algoma

Yours truly
W.R. Smythe P.M. & M.P.P.