

# Geography.

Monteith is a small village, located at mileage 218, on the Ontario Northland Railway, 218 miles from North Bay.

It is also presently located on the west bank of the Driftwood River.

Previous to 1916 it had been a small settlement on the east side of the Driftwood River, but this settlement was burned out in the 1916 fire. It was known as Driftwood City. After the fire the opposite side was considered as a better site, and new buildings were erected there. It was to have the name of Monteith, after the minister of Agriculture for Ontario. *Hon. Nelson Monteith.*

The first settlement consisted of a log boarding house, operated by Mr. John McCosh. He had been a cook for the construction crews of the <sup>N.O.</sup>O.N.R. which was under construction in 1908 - ~~13~~ and which had been built as far as Gold-Lands, or Kelso, its present name. This had been famed for a discovery of gold. After several years boom, this petered out and after the big fire it became only a small settlement, that was not rebuilt.

Mr. <sup>Robert</sup> Joseph Kelso had the first store at Driftwood City. There was also a freight shed, built by the railroad. It served as a flag stop for passengers as there was no agent.

Monteith came into being in the fall of 1916 Mr. McCosh built a new boarding house and homes were built. Mr. McCosh moved into his new place Nov. 5. 1912.