

have studied this field, which has a very extensive development to the east of Montreal, as well as along the valley of the river northward, that the prospects for obtaining this material in commercial amount are very good. In the lower Ottawa basin the greatest development of the rocks from the Trenton up to the Medina red shales, which is a succession precisely like that where the tests were made at Nicolet, is in the townships of Russell and Gloucester. No attempt has as yet been made to test this portion of the Ottawa basin, and nothing further can be said as to the probability of finding natural gas in this area, except that the strata are apparently undisturbed and there is a heavy capping of shales overlying the Utica and Trenton formations. Further east on the bank of the South Nation River a shallow boring was put down several years ago which produced gas in considerable quantity, and in this respect the area resembles that of the St. Lawrence. Several borings have also been sunk near the line of the Canada Atlantic Railway for water, as also near Caledonia Springs, but these, though they reached a depth at one place of about 800 feet, started below the surface of the Trenton and gave no results as to the presence of gas or oil. The upper formations of the Utica and Lorraine are absent from this portion of the basin, so that the area is not a typical one for tests of this kind. The discovery of natural gas in the vicinity of Ottawa would be of such great importance that one trial, even if attended with failure, should not be allowed to condemn the enterprise. In the case of the boring made within the city limits some years ago, it may be said that no results in this direction should have been expected. The boring started on Trenton limestone and in a part of the formation much broken by faults, so that if ever gas existed in that area it had an excellent chance to make its escape long before the bore-hole was started.

It would of course be rash to state that borings in the Palæozoic formations, south of the Ottawa, would result in finding either gas or oil in profitable quantities; and in this connection it may be stated that, in so far as explorations along these