from west to east, and also a branch from Richmond to Lévis, paralleling Craig's road. About 1880 the Quebec Central railway was completed from Sherbrooke to Lévis, running for nearly half its length closely parallel to or across the serpentine belt; and since that date the Canadian Pacific railway has extended lines across and to various parts of the district. The Lotbinière and Megantic railway has connected the Grand Trunk branch with the St. Lawrence river at St. Jean des Chaillons, and a third line between Sherbrooke and Quebec is now projected.

Meanwhile, the tide of immigration from the British Isles has been diverted to western Canada, and the English speaking settlers of the Eastern Townships are rapidly following it. But the steadily increasing French-Canadian population having occupied the St. Lawrence plain, has extended to the highlands, and now forms much the greater part of the population.

Previous Work.—The first descriptions of this district were by Sir William Logan, in several of the early reports of the Geological Survey, and were later embodied in the Geology of Canada, published in 1863. In these, the distribution of the serpentines and related rocks was described with the admirable care and accuracy which characterized Logan's work; but the scale of the maps issued at that time did not admit of showing them in the atlas accompanying the general report of 1863.

Mineralogical and lithological examinations accompanied by chemical analyses were made at the same time by T. Sterry Hunt, and the results were published in conjunction with those of Logan's field work. According to the views of the Uniformitarian school of geology, which at that time was in the ascendancy, the serpentines of this district were supposed to be altered sediments derived largely from magnesian limestone. They were assigned to a certain horizon of the stratified rocks, and were often correlated with neighbouring beds of dolomite.

The sedimentary origin of these rocks was questioned by the late Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn—who succeeded Sir William Logan as Director of the Geological Survey of Canada in 1869. A small suite of specimens from the district, the first rocks to be examined in Canada by modern microscopic methods, was determined in 1882 by Dr. F. D. Adams—then lithologist to the Geological Survey—and the serpentines were shown to be altered igneous, not sedimentary