

In spite of many marked differences, there has always seemed to me to be an analogy, I would say, a correspondence, between the North Sea or German Ocean, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I have often thought of Elisee Reclus' view that "the western coasts of Europe and Africa correspond with the eastern coast of this continent, not with the western as analogy would indicate."

Both seas are, towards the north, bound east and west by elevated ancient rock-formations, Norway and Britain alike presenting to the sea bold rugged ramparts, just as Gaspé and Newfoundland do; but there is no counterpart of Labrador in the case of the North Sea.

Both, again, become extremely shallow in their southern portions, the unresisting arenaceous beaches, of recent formation, and the friable chalk cliffs facing the German Ocean the sea perpetually devours, or as in the case of the Netherlands, large tracts of country are inundated by it just as the Chignecto Isthmus is still to some extent inundated to-day, and must formerly have been wholly submerged.

*Were the Gulf and Bay of Fundy continuous?*

If there was communication between Minas Basin and Halifax Harbour by the Stewiacke Valley, Grand Lake, and the lakes near Windsor Junction, to which geologists may, perhaps, raise insuperable objections, then the occurrence of oysters about Halifax Harbour, Jeddore Head, and even further east, can be understood.

The region at the head of the Bay of Fundy at any rate has been, "one of exceptional geological disturbance and complexity," as Dr. George Dawson said, and, if Prince Edward Island has been elevated not much before or after, geologically speaking, then the fauna of the Passamaquoddy waters and further south would have continuity with the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But, it may be objected that the oyster is practically absent from the Bay of Fundy proper, which forms as it were a non-ostreate region between the prolific areas of Connecticut, New York, Maryland, etc., on the south, and Northumberland Straits on the north. With the closing of the Bay of Fundy its conditions, it must be remembered, would so change that the high tides, the famous "bore," the increase in mud deposits, the stranding of ice in the shallows, and other physical, chemical, and biological changes, sufficiently account for the disappearance of the oyster. The Gulf ice would moreover not be retained in the *cul-de-sac* formed by St. George's Bay and the Inverness shore of Cape Breton. If the northern ice passed into the Gulf at all to the extent to which it does now, it would be carried, with the local fields of ice, down the Bay of Fundy, and would disappear rapidly as it passed into the warmer zones.