

State of Vermont. It is possible that much of this serpentine may be the result of alteration from dolomitic rock, or from slates which contain dolomite; whereas it is clear that much of that found in Thetford and Coleraine is an alternative product of dioritic eruptive rock, rich in olivine or some allied mineral.

The rocks of the central or Coleraine area differ as a whole from those just described in being, as a rule, much more massive, and occurring in large areas. They have associated with them deposits of chromic iron and of magnetite, as well as of asbestos. Large areas of steatite or soapstone occur also about Ham Lake, and mining for nickel was carried on in this vicinity many years ago, the quantity of this mineral obtained being, however, but small. The country occupied by these rocks is generally rough and uninviting from the agricultural standpoint, and the whole area from Ham Mountain to the northern terminus of the main belt in Thetford or at the Bull Mountain in Adstock is of this description. In character of rock the serpentine presents several varieties. Portions are hard, reddish brown weathering and very siliceous, as seen in much of that in the townships of Wolfestown and Ireland, and even in the Coleraine ridge south of Black Lake and about Lakes Caribou and Little St. Francis. In this hard siliceous serpentine, asbestos very rarely occurs, and when present is mostly of imperfectly developed fibre in short and gashy veins. Occasionally, however, seamy partings are found which at first glance and at a distance present somewhat the aspect of asbestos veins, but on closer examination reveal the existence possibly of a small parting of fibre, or sometimes only of a seam of serpentine. In certain portions of the belt these seamy partings are quite numerous, and by some prospectors are supposed to indicate the presence of workable veins, on the general principle held by many practical miners, that a vein of mineral matter always becomes larger as it is followed downward, a principle of such peculiar application that its absurdity should be apparent to anyone who has ever thought a moment on the subject.

Passing beyond or to the north-east of the great masses of serpentine in Thetford and Coleraine, detached masses, knolls, and sometimes bands of this rock crop out at intervals. These are well seen near the Chaudiere River, both in the Bras de Sud Ouest and in the Des Plants