

*Estuarine Flats.*

Estuarine flats,  
great breadth  
of.

Estuarine flats occupy areas of greater or less breadth in Miscou and Shippegan harbours and in Pokemouche and Tracadie lagoons. In the mouths of the several rivers debouching into Miramichi Bay, and also among the islands which occupy it, wide expanses of sand, called "sandbars", are either laid bare at ebb tides, or covered only with a few inches of water. These usually support a dense growth of marine plants.

The general character of these formations was discussed in previous reports, and it is therefore unnecessary to go into further details regarding them.

## AGRICULTURAL CHARACTER, SYLVA, ETC.

General  
agricultural  
character of  
the district.

The agricultural character of the district under consideration presents no new features, except such as have been incidentally mentioned in previous pages of this report. The soils and subsoils bear, perhaps, a closer relation to the underlying rocks than in the coastal areas of the Baie des Chaleurs basin, and are likewise deeper, usually masking the strata completely everywhere, except on the Pre-Cambrian belts. Even where the surface is strewn with boulders foreign to the particular locality, the great bulk of the deposits belongs to the underlying rocks. The denudation which the region has undergone has carried away much of the finer material from the higher grounds and slopes, however, often leaving only a coarse gravelly or shingly soil. In the valleys there is usually a thick deposit of clay, gravel and loam, and wherever the latter is found, the soil is rich and productive.

*Soils upon the Middle and Lower Carboniferous Rocks.*

Soil of Carbon-  
iferous area  
above 200 feet  
contour lines.

The general character of these soils as met with in the Baie des Chaleurs district was described in some detail in my last report (Annual Report, 1886), and the remarks therein respecting them, especially as occurring in eastern Gloucester, are also applicable to those of the district now under discussion. On that part of it above the 200 feet contour line, the soil, more especially on the drier grounds (leaving out of consideration the vegetable layer usually occupying the surface), is a dry stony gravel or sand with an admixture of clay in certain localities. Where the sand and gravel predominate, it is exceedingly porous and light, but where clay prevails it generally has a hardpan underneath, and, if flat, is often wet and swampy. This hardpan, which is almost impervious to water, consists of fine sand and clay, with more