

Natural boundaries, very conspicuous and well defined, separate the agricultural from the mineral region, and where we find a blending of the two, or an invasion of one in the form of narrow stripes, with the general boundaries of the other, it only serves to increase the natural advantages and importance of both.

The agricultural region of Canada is determined along its northern boundary by the limits of the unaltered sedimentary rocks which cover that part of the country. The mineral region may be said to extend over the whole of the northern portion of this Province not occupied by the rocks before mentioned. The Canadian shores of Lakes Superior and Huron, and a line drawn from Matchedash bay to Kingston, on Lake Ontario indicate with surprising exactness, the southern limits of the rocks embracing the westerly portion of our mineral wealth. Towards the east, with the exception of a basin containing about 10,000 square miles between the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, and a narrow stripe on the north and south side of the St. Lawrence as far as Quebec, the whole of the country towards the so called Hudson's Bay Company's Territory, is occupied by the easterly extension of the mineral region of Canada.

This vast expanse of country, hitherto known only to lumbermen and trappers is intersected here and there with river vallies, in which has accumulated a soil of abounding fertility and richness, which will one day become bountiful oases in the midst of a vast mining country.

The fertility of the soil in many of the river vallies so abundantly distributed through a large portion of the mineral region of the Province, is owing, in numerous instances, to the presence of peculiar rocks containing in singular profusion, many of the elements required by vegetables. The alluvial soils of the river banks are often of extraordinary richness, and give testimony of their worth by supporting a heavy and luxuriant growth of the different varieties of timber.

Sir William Logan, in explaining the origin of the fertility of some parts of this region, says:

"In searching for the limestone we found that a large part of the mountains, whose slopes hold the good soil, is composed of what has been called *hypersthene* rock, from the occurrence in it of a mineral of that name.—The rock, however, as ascertained by the analysis of Mr. Hunt, consists largely of lime feldspar, and hence the good quality of the soil. The beautiful mineral *labradorite* is one of these lime feldspars. The former, when first discovered, used to be sold on account of its beauty, for its weight in gold, and applied to the purposes of jewelry. Now, ornaments cut in it are worth no more than the value of the labor expended on them. We have found it in abundance in the rock. On such a soil I have seen a field of oats every stalk of which was upwards of five, and a large number six feet high, with good grain at the head. The valleys underlaid by the rock have always constituted, in my mind, the main hope for the Laurentian country in an agricultural point of view; but the discovery of important ranges, largely composed of lime feldspars, greatly extends the prospect of advantage. These rocks have been met with in several localities, from Abercrombie to the Sault-a-la Puce in Chateau Richer; and as the Laurentian series in