

groups of rocks, in their eastward extension, enter the limits of the province. And this would to some extent appear to be the case. Here, also, a "fertile belt," continuous with that of Aroostook, is well marked, and is rapidly becoming the seat of thriving settlements, but owing to a change in the course of the strata in passing from Maine to New Brunswick, the width of the belt in the latter is considerably increased, extending probably at least as far north as Edmunston, and eastward to the valley of the Restigouche. Even above Edmunston, much good land is to be found, but the more hilly character of the country in this direction, combined with the shortness of the season and the occurrence of early frosts, give here a less promising aspect to the work of the agriculturist.

The geological features of the district under review present but little diversity, being very similar to those of the Silurian tracts described in previous reports. The prevailing rocks are slates, mostly of dark grey colours, weathering to bluish-grey and often conspicuously banded, but in places they are greenish or reddish. They are very generally calcareous and at times markedly so, but bands of true limestone are infrequent. The slates not uncommonly alternate with sandstones, which are also calcareous, but beds of coarser character are rarely met with. Intrusive rocks are also not common, though covering some considerable areas.

Geological features.

The attitude of the beds over the Silurian tract is usually one indicative of great disturbance, and over large areas, great masses of strata have been affected by extensive and complicated folds. But over other considerable areas, it would seem that the pressure to which the beds have been subjected has resulted only in local crumplings, the beds as a whole still occupying positions which are not far from horizontal. It is in this way that they are made to spread so widely and to acquire the appearance of having a much greater thickness than they actually possess. In connection with these movements, slaty cleavage has been very strongly developed, and in many instances makes the recognition of the true stratification a matter of some difficulty. Owing to the circumstances to which reference has been made, together with the paucity of fossils, any attempts to determine the relative position of the different groups of strata, their thickness or their correlation with those of other regions, are at once inconclusive and unsatisfactory. Indeed within the limits to which the present report relates, there are very few facts which help to throw much light upon questions of this character. So far as at present known, these relations seem most likely to be disclosed by the study of the regions to the north and west of that here described, more particularly those of the Aroostook region in the state of Maine and the Temiscouata re-

Disturbance.

Slaty cleavage.