

*Salt.*—Springs of salt water are reported as occurring upon Barrie Island, but they may probably be only such bitter saline waters as are generally met with in these lower rocks. Salt.

*Bituminous Shales.*—Some years since, as described in the Geology of Canada, page 784, attempts were made at Collingwood to manufacture oils by distilling the bituminous shale of the Utica formation, and it was then found that oils could be profitably made from it, when the refined illuminating oil brought seventy-five cents a gallon. On the Manitoulin Island this rock appears to be more bituminous than at Collingwood, and in the event of mineral oils reaching a comparatively high price, it may be found valuable for their manufacture. Bituminous shale.

*Petroleum.*—Springs of petroleum have been found on the south side of Wequemakong Bay, where three or four wells are now being sunk. One of these is now (7th May, 1866,) upwards of 500 feet deep. It starts upon the Hudson River rocks, probably about the middle of the formation, and passes through the Utica and Trenton strata. A hard quartz rock (probably Huronian) has now been reached. Oil, accompanied by gas, was found at various levels, and up to the present time, it appears that seventy-two barrels of oil have been dipped up by the sand-pump, during the progress of the boring. Surface oil is said to have been found at Bob's Portage, on the east side of Manitowaning Bay, and also in She-gua-an-dah Bay, and upon Strawberry Island. A petroleum spring, on one of the islands north of Maple Point, is referred to in your General Report of 1863. Petroleum.

In the General Report, pages 523 and 790, there are notices of a bituminous dolomitic limestone, a specimen of which had been brought from Grand Manitoulin Island, containing about eight per cent. of solid bitumen or mineral pitch. It was there pointed out that this might be used, like the similar asphaltic limestones of Switzerland and of Italy, for the preparation of mastic pavements. The precise locality of this bituminous limestone has not, however, as yet been discovered. Bitumen.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Queen's University,  
Kingston, 7th May, 1866.

ROBERT BELL.