

of more than passing notice, viz : Big, Big Black, Deer and Punk Islands.

BIG ISLAND

has already been a source of considerable interest to some investigators who have discovered upon it valuable beds of iron ore. It presents a striking peculiarity in possessing outcrops of both the Laurentian and Silurian systems; the latter is characteristic of all the other islands except those very few close to the eastern shore, where Laurentian rocks are common. On the east side of Big Island the beds of iron ore are located from which many excellent specimens have been obtained that present physical character common to rich ores and also under the crucial test of the analyst have proved to be of more than ordinary value. On the west side an extensive outcrop of limestone occurs. The proximity of limestone to these large beds of ore is of great practical importance and gives a value to the iron deposits they otherwise would not possess.

A short distance from this, Deer Island is situated. It was visited by Hind in 1858, who made geological examination of its rocks and reported upon them as follows:—

DEER ISLAND.

Commencing at the water edge.

1. The beach covered with shingle resulting from worn fragments of the limestone of the island.

2. Four feet of dark green argillo-arenaceous shale with thin layers of sandstones. Fucoids very abundant in this layer. The sandstone becomes reddish brown on weathering; but a fresh surface is white or gray. Iron pyrites (iron sulphide) in the form of disk shape nodules and some shells also occur.

Fossils of the genus *modiolopsis* are common in the shale: this genus I may add is well represented in the limestone along the lake shore west of Toronto and generally accepted as belonging to the Hudson River group of Silurian rocks.

3. Resembles the preceding; the sandstone layers are from 1 to 4 inches in thickness and predominate over the shaly portions. Its thickness is 6 feet and some parts of the formation vary considerably.

4. Ten feet of sandstone with green bands of a soft argillaceous rock, from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 inches in thickness.

The sandstone is generally red, but sometimes white. A