

region, with the time and means at our disposal, has been impossible; in the unsettled portions—and these embrace fully three-fourths of its entire extent—no examination, which can claim to have been at all an exhaustive one, has been made. The principal streams have been examined and to some extent the country bordering them, and a number of traverses made from point to point through the forest-covered areas. These have afforded the means of obtaining a good knowledge of the general geology of the region and have enabled us to lay down, we hope with a fair approach to accuracy, the boundaries of the different geological systems; they have not resulted, however, in the discovery of any minerals of economic importance, although the highly altered character of the strata over large areas and the numerous intrusions and contacts would seem favourable to the formation of mineral-bearing veins.

The following are the more important minerals known to occur in the district:—

*Gypsum.*—Large beds of this mineral occur on the left bank of the Tobique River just above the mouth of its affluent the Wapskehegan, or about thirty miles from the St. John. Their mode of occurrence and some idea of the probable extent of the deposits has been given in preceding pages. The occurrence of these beds and their value to the agriculturist was early pointed out, and the neighbouring farmers have used the gypsum as a fertilizer to a greater or less extent ever since the country has been settled.

In more recent years it has become, to a limited degree, an article of commerce, although distance from a market and the rude means of transport available have prevented its extended use. It has been shipped either by carrying it down the river during high water on rafts or by hauling on the ice in the winter time. Considerable quantities have each winter been hauled in this way by the farmers of Aroostock county, who esteem it highly as a fertilizer for their crops of potatoes, large quantities of which are grown in that region for the manufacture of starch. It is stated that upwards of a thousand tons have been taken away in this manner in a season.

There are now two mills on the Tobique, one at Three Brooks and the other at Quaker Brook, which are fitted with machinery for grinding the gypsum, but owing in a large measure to the poor facilities for shipment their operations are on a very limited scale. This drawback, the want of means of carriage, will, it is expected, soon be done away with, as a railway is projected, and surveys for it have been made, to run up the valley of the Tobique as far as the gypsum beds. Connecting at the mouth of the river with the New Brunswick railroad system, it will afford an outlet for the plaster as well as for the lumber and other products of the districts.

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