

In looking, for the first time, at a map of South-Western Nova Scotia, there are two features in its topography which at once attract attention, viz., (1) the broken and indented character of the coast, and (2) the abundance of inland lakes. A closer examination of these features, in connection with the character of the surface, will reveal, in important particulars, a community of origin.

(1.) The extent to which the coast is marked by a broken and indented shore line will perhaps be better appreciated when it is stated that, taking only the two counties to which these remarks more particularly relate, the distance in a straight line, from the eastern boundary of Queens to the western boundary of Shelburne, parallel to the general trend of the coast, is only about sixty-five miles, while if the bays and indentations be followed, even if all minor regularities be omitted, this distance is more than two hundred and forty miles. If with this we take into account the innumerable islands, large and small, with which the coast abounds, the bearing of this feature upon the commercial relations, the fishing industries and the navigation of the latter, as well as upon the habits and character of its people, will be at once apparent.

The majority of the indentations referred to are at right angles to the coast line and therefore approximately north and south. Taking only the most important harbors, those of Port Medway, Liverpool Bay, Port Mouton, Port Joli, Port L'Herbert, Sable River, Jordan Bay, Shelburne Harbor, Negro Harbor, Port La Tour and Barrington Bay, it will be found that the majority have a trend which varies but little from N. and S. (magnetic), the length of the indentations varying from two or three to ten miles and their width from one to two miles. A similar conformity to a general north and south trend is equally evident in the long narrow promontories by which these inlets are separated, as it not unfrequently is also in the position and form of the associated islands.

Such uniformity of arrangement, as also of contour, in each case quite different from that which the underlying rock formations would be calculated to produce, is explicable only upon one