

stones, clays, and shales, generally pale-greyish or yellowish in colour, except where darkened by carbonaceous matter. They frequently hold lignite, coal, and in some even true bituminous coal occurs. These sedimentary beds rest generally on a very irregular surface, and consequently vary much in thickness and character in different parts of the extensive region over which they occur. The lignites appear in some places to rest on true "underlays," representing the soil on which the vegetation producing them has grown, while in others—as at Quesnel—they seem to be composed of drift-wood, and show much clay and sand interlaminated with the coaly matter.

In the northern portion of the interior the upper volcanic part of the Tertiary covers great areas, and is usually in beds nearly horizontal, or at least not extensively or sharply folded. Basalts, dolerites, and allied rocks of modern aspects occur in sheets, broken only here and there by valleys of denudation; and acidic rocks are seldom met with except in the immediate vicinity of the ancient volcanic vents. On the Lower Nechacco, and on the Parsnip River, the lower sedimentary rocks appear to be somewhat extensively developed without the overlying volcanic materials.

The southern part of the interior plateau is more irregular and mountainous. The Tertiary rocks here cover less extensive areas, and are much more disturbed, and sometimes over wide districts—as on the Nicola—are found dipping at an average angle of about thirty degrees. The volcanic materials are occasionally of great thickness, and the little disturbed basalts of the north are, for the most part, replaced by agglomerates and tufas, with trachytes, porphyrites, and other felspathic rocks. It may indeed be questioned whether the character of these rocks does not indicate that they are of earlier date than those to the north, but, as no direct palæontological evidence of this has been obtained, it is presumed that their different composition and appearance is due to unlike conditions of deposition and greater subsequent disturbance.

No volcanic rocks or lava flows of Post-glacial age have been met with, though I believe that still farther to the north-west the rocks are of yet more recent origin than any of these here described, and I have even heard a tradition of the Indians of the Nasse River which relates that, at some time very remote in their history, an eruption covering a wide tract of country with lava was witnessed.

The organic remains so far obtained from these Tertiary rocks of the interior consist of plants, insects, and a few fresh-water molluscs and fish scales, the last being the only indication of the vertebrate fauna of the period. The plants have been collected at a number of localities. They have been subjected to a preliminary examination by