

In favour of the faulting hypothesis the following evidence may be cited:

The remarkable linearity of the trench valleys and the manner in which they cross all varieties of rocks regardless of their character (hardness, etc.), or structure (foliation, bedding, etc.), are features, which while generally characteristic of fault planes, are not normal characteristics of river valleys.

In the case of the Cobalt Lake depression, an actual fault plane has been found to correspond with the longer axis of the basin.

The evidences of deformation in the flat-lying Palæozoic outlier at the north of lake Timiskaming, at a point in Dymond township directly in line with the west shore of the lake, suggest that the linear scarp which forms the west boundary of the Timiskaming gorge has been developed along a fault plane.

Numerous faults of small displacement have been found in the mine workings at Cobalt indicating that the region in that locality has been subject to faulting on an extensive scale.

The manner in which some of the linear valleys lie on the contact of older and younger formations lends strong support to the hypothesis that the valleys in these cases occur on a fault along which the formation on one side of the valley has been vertically displaced with respect to that on the other.

In opposition to the faulting hypothesis there is the following evidence:

Up to the present time, the actual fault plane has been found along only one of the linear valleys of the Timiskaming region, namely Cobalt lake.¹

From an examination of maps of areas in the Timiskaming region on which geological formations are shown in detail, it seems evident that, as regards the larger part of the linear valleys, there is no apparent difference in the rocks exposed on opposite sides of the valleys, an effect that would be very noticeable, in most localities, if the rocks on one side had suffered considerable vertical displacement with respect to the other.

If the linear valleys of the Timiskaming region have been developed by erosion along planes of faulting, it would seem probable that the Timiskaming gorge, at least the longest and deepest of all the linear valleys, would occur along a fault of great displacement; yet the pre-Cobalt Series palæoplain occurs at approximately the same elevation, throughout a considerable area, on both sides of the lake, showing that the side of the lake has suffered little or no vertical displacement with respect to the other.

Other Possibilities. If it be assumed for the purpose of this investigation that the linear valleys have not developed as a result of faulting, is there any other known way in which such a striking series of linear depressions could be formed? It is pointed out in the section of the report which follows that they are not of glacial origin and, as far as known to the writer, such a system of drainage could only develop normally by the superposition of drainage valleys from an overlying series of rocks which have since been eroded away, presumably, in this case, from Palæozoic sediments, since, as far as known, these are the only overlying rocks which ever occurred in the region.² But even if the linear valleys originated on a younger Palæozoic cover we have still to explain how such a system of drainage composed of linear valleys trending in three principal directions could be initiated in flat-lying sedimentary strata except by faulting or deformation.

¹ Miller, W. G., and Knight, C. W., *Eng. and Min. Jour.*, vol. 92, pp. 648, 1911.
Williams, M. Y., *Geol. Surv., Can., Mus. Bull. No. 17.*

² Pirsson, L. V., *Am. Jour. Sc.*, vol. 30, 1910, p. 30.