

extent. Its eastern shores form here the western limits so far as observable, of the great eozoic rocks, and were also, no doubt, the eastern shore of the great inland sea.

It has been proposed to lower the level of Lake Manitoba by removing the obstructions in the channel through which its waters are conducted by way of St. Martin's Lake to Lake Winnipeg, and there is no doubt that if this could be effected to the extent of only a few feet, large tracts of country would be reclaimed which around its margin are presently more or less under water. The southern end of the lake is now bounded by a narrow sand bank elevated a few feet above the water. Inside of this are very considerable tracts once forming a part of the lake and now more or less submerged, but in which the process of growth and decay of the grasses and aquatic plants and the resulting annual deposit of soil will eventually end in their reclamation from the water. This same process is going on in a large tract covering four or five townships about ten miles to the westward of Lake Manitoba, known as the Big Grass Marsh, as well as in many other places in the province, and will, in coming years, result in the formation of prairie land with a rich covering of black vegetable loam.

The County of Essex in Ontario has a considerable extent of prairie land which was no doubt largely formed under similar conditions of annual growth and decay, and which in its origin points to a time when Lakes Erie and St. Clair, were more intimately connected than they now are. Long Point, Point Pelée and Sandusky Harbour, all on Lake Erie, are illustrations of prairies now in process of formation. These prairies all have a fresh water origin. Those south of Montreal, and extending beyond St. Johns and St. Hyacinthe, are rather of marine origin, dating back to the Leda clay period, when the drift clays were re-assorted under water and added to, and the land then elevated to its present level.

Probably contemporaneous with the formation of the prairies was the creation of the deep valleys of the Assiniboine and the Qu'Appelle Rivers. The valley of the Assiniboine above Brandon has an average depth of towards 200