

ore the chief apparent difference as compared with that of Pictou is in the contained species of fossils.

Where I have examined this bed, it appears to be six feet thick and enclosed in slaty rocks not dissimilar from those associated with the Silurian ore of Pictou. Recent explorations at Nictaux are said to have developed extensions of this deposit; but I have no details of these. As rocks of the Arisaig group are known to underlie the Nictaux beds, it is not impossible that additional beds of ore may be found in these. The normal condition of the iron of the Nictaux bed is that of peroxide; but locally it has lost a portion of its oxygen and has become magnetic. This I believe to be a consequence of local metamorphism connected with the immense granite dikes which traverse the Devonian rocks of this region.

The Nictaux ore is more highly fossiliferous than that of Pictou, and contains a larger proportion of Phosphate of Lime. In the attempts hitherto made to work this ore, the distance from coal has been a main disadvantage, but the construction of the Windsor and Annapolis railway has diminished this. The Devonian beds holding this bed are described in "Acadian Geology." An analysis of a specimen made many years ago gave 55 per cent of iron.

### (3) *Bedded Ores of the Carboniferous System.*

The most remarkable of these is a bed of crystalline *Spathic iron* or *Siderite*, occurring in the Lower Carboniferous series, near Sutherland's River in the County of Picton. As described by Mr. G. M. Dawson, who prosecuted works of exploration in it last year, it is a conformable bed, occurring in the Lower Carboniferous red sandstones, and varying from six feet six inches to ten feet six inches in thickness. It is accompanied with smaller bands of the same mineral, and at no great vertical distance from it is a bed of gypsum. Its mode of occurrence is on the whole not dissimilar from that of the non fossiliferous sub-crystalline limestones which occur in some parts of the Lower Carboniferous series associated with the gypsum. This ore is a true Spathic Iron, granular and crystalline in texture, and when unweathered of a light gray colour. It affords from 42 to 43 per cent. of iron and contains from 2 to 8 per cent. of manganese. This bed is only four miles distant from the "Vale" colliery, and is intended to be worked in association with the Hematite already