



STRIPPING AND MINING OPERATIONS ON THE SCOTIA BED.

there are three little islands, the largest of which, about twelve miles in extent, is Bell Island.

Bell Island's cliffs rise perpendicularly for several hundred feet and in many cases they overhang, the incessant ravages of the sea having worn away the base. Geologists assert that the island is a remnant of an immense syncline or trough of sediments deposited in Cambrian times. The general outline of Conception Bay was then the same as now but larger. It is supposed that it was the estuary of a large river that flowed down from the higher land to the west, and a series of ripple marks found on the island strengthens this belief. Enormous quantities of sediment were evidently carried into the estuary, and the bay began to fill up. There was a continual re-adjustment of pressure and eventually this whole portion of Newfoundland was gradually lifted above sea level.

As a result of this re-adjustment, the bay exists to-day where the estuary was situated formerly, and there is now visible only the uppermost beds on Bell Island which contain the ore seams. Weathering and ice action have removed a great portion of the ore beds that formerly extended farther south than the present outcrops. The north side of Bell Island contains a number of seams of red hematite iron ore,