Soon after the completion of the experiments made in Scotland in 1908, in connection with the shipment of oil-shales from New Brunswick, which were carried out to a very satisfactory conclusion, under the authority of Dr. Haanel, director of the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines at Ottawa, the results of which have now been somewhat widely circulated, it was decided to make a systematic examination, not only of the other deposits known to occur in New Brunswick, but also of certain other oil-shales which had been reported as occurring in Nova Scotia and in Gaspé, of which some portions were stated to be sufficiently rich in hydrocarbons to warrant the expenditure of capital in development. Shortly after my return from Scotland, therefore, the detailed examination of these various shale areas of New Brunswick was commenced.

These are found principally in the counties of Albert and Westmorland. Samples of ten pounds each were taken in duplicate, one set of which was sent to the laboratory of Dr. Baskerville, of the College of the City of New York, the other being sent to the Department of Mines, Ottawa.

Prior to this date there was no apparatus, either in Canada or the United States, which was suitable for determining the commercial value of these shales. However, Mr. W. A. Hamor, chief assistant chemist to Dr. Baskerville, in New York, who had accompanied me to Scotland to witness and report on the distillation of the New Brunswick shale shipment, on his return to New York designed and erected a small laboratory plant similar in most respects to that in use in the Pumpherston works in Mid Calder, Scotland. By means of this apparatus the samples selected in New Brunswick were tested by Mr. Hamor, for the Albertite, Oilite and Cannel-coal Company of New York and New Brunswick. Owing to the lack of facilities for doing this kind of work in Canada, the Mines Branch of the Mines Department, acting under the advice of the director, Dr. Haanel, also designed a laboratory plant or retort which was set up in the winter of 1908-09 at Ottawa. This on being carefully tested was found to give excellent