

MINERALS FROM BAFFIN LAND.

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The Royal Ontario Museum of Mineralogy has recently received from R. J. Flaherty, Esq., M.E., of the North Lands Exploration, Limited, a fine series of minerals collected by him on his recent visit to Baffin Land. Most of the material came from near the shore to the south of Amadjuak Lake.

The geological character of this region is indicated in the following passages from the reports of Dr. Robert Bell*:

"The distinguishing feature in the geology of the southern part of Baffin Land is the great abundance, thickness and regularity of the limestones associated with the gneisses. At least ten immense bands, as shown on the accompanying map, were recognized, and it is probable that the two others, discovered in North Bay, are distinct from any of these. There would, therefore, appear to be twelve principal bands as far as known, to say nothing of numerous minor ones, between Icy Cape and Chorkback Inlet. The limestones are for the most part, nearly white, coarsely crystalline and mixed with whitish feldspars. The individual crystals in some parts of the limestone masses would measure two or three inches in diameter and the crystallization of the feldspar is occasionally equally coarse."

"The limestones usually contain scattered grains of graphite and among the other minerals which commonly occur in the various bands are mica, garnet, magnetite, pyrite, and hornblende. Serpentine of a dark colour was abundantly disseminated as grains and small irregular masses in a band which crosses the head of Canon Inlet. Disseminated specks of bright green and blue serpentine were found in another band at White Bluff Harbour and similar specks of both colours occur in the eastern band at the head of North Bay. The late Mr. Ashe gave me a crystal of sphene, an inch and a half in diameter, which had been brought to him by an Eskimo from North Bay—probably obtained from the limestone there."

The series of minerals contained in Mr. Flaherty's collection is such as might be expected from an archæan region where crystalline limestones alternate with gneiss in a great complex. In many respects the collection suggests the mineral association found in Ottawa County to the north of the Capital.

* Report Geol. Survey of Canada, New Series, Vol. XI., p. 24M.