

Coast Range, an extensive formation characterized by rocks of volcanic origin, and often porphyritic, has also been found. Its thickness must be very great, and has been roughly estimated at one locality at 10,000 feet. It has been supposed, on lithological grounds, to represent the porphyritic formation of the vicinity of Tatlayoco Lake, and fossils found in it have been described as Jurassic. From analogy since developed with the Queen Charlotte Island fauna, however, Mr. Whiteaves now believes that the Iltasyouco beds are also Cretaceous.

Still further north the Cretaceous formation is not confined to the vicinity of the Coast Range, but spreads more widely eastward, being in all probability represented by the argillites and felspathic and calcareous sandstones of the Lower Nechaco; and, as the explorations of 1879 have shown, occupying a great extent of country on the 55th parallel about the upper part of the Skeena and Babine Lake. They here include felspathic rocks of volcanic origin similar to those of the Iltasyouco, which are most abundant on the eastern flanks of the Coast Range, and probably form the lower portion the group. Besides these volcanic rocks, there is, however, a great thickness of comparatively soft sandstones and argillites, with beds of impure coal. The strata are arranged in a series of folds more or less abrupt, and have a general north-west and south-east strike. It is not impossible, from the general palaeontological identity of the rocks of the interior with the older of those of the coast, that the Skeena region may eventually be found to contain valuable coal-seams, but this part of the country is at present very difficult of access, and there is no inducement to explore it.

The Tertiary rocks do not form any wide or continuous belt on the coast of British Columbia, as is the case farther south. They are found near Sooke, at the southern extremity of Vancouver's Island, in the form of sandstones, conglomerates, and shales, which are sometimes carbonaceous.* Tertiary rocks also probably occupy a considerable area about the mouth of the Fraser River; extending southward from Burrard Inlet, across the International boundary formed by the 49th parallel, to Bellingham Bay and beyond. Thin seams of lignite occur at Burrard Inlet. Sections of the Tertiary rocks at Bellingham Bay are given in Dr. Hector's official report. Lignite beds were extensively worked here some years ago, but the mine has been abandoned owing to the superior quality of the fuels now obtained from Nanaimo and Seattle. About the estuary of the Fraser the Tertiary beds are much covered by drift and alluvial deposits, and are consequently not well known. Lignites, and even true coals, have been found in connection

* Report of Progress, Geol. Survey of Canada, 1878-9, p. 84 B.