

and the Madawaska, are now largely filled with drift, and there can be but little doubt that all of them mark old channels of sub-aerial erosion, the partial damming of which has originated the lake-basins which now characterize them.

The climatic features of the region under review may be readily inferred from its position and physical aspects. While its comparatively high latitude determines great inequality in the length of the seasons, a long winter and a very short summer, its altitude further tends to reduce the mean temperature of the latter. The temperature of the coastal waters, these being a part of the great southward flow from the Arctics, being also very low, leads to a further chilling in the air above them, and the effects of this are readily recognizable in the prevailing winds. Fogs are not uncommon, even over the higher portions of the district, and the rain and snow fall both excessive. Ice sometimes remains in Lake Metapedia as late as the 24th of May, and upon the adjacent hill tops, as well as in ravines and gullies, great banks of snow often linger far into June. Frosts come early in autumn, and may come, even with severity, at any time of the year. Long continued and excessive heats are of rare occurrence.

The climatic features of the region are reflected in its vegetation and animal life, although the former is also largely influenced by the character of the soils and drainage, as these in turn are by the nature and structure of the rocks beneath. The larger portion of the district is forest-clad, the clearings being for the most part confined to a narrow belt, five to fifteen miles wide, skirting the St. Lawrence, to isolated settlements around the shores of the Gaspé peninsula, to the immediate neighbourhood of the Temiscouata Portage Road, and to the more recently opened line of the Intercolonial Railway. The trees most commonly met with are spruce, fir, hackmatac and white birch, but in favorable situations and on lands of moderate elevation yellow birch and sugar-maple are also not uncommon, and along the river valleys, groves of black ash and poplar.