

occupies the interior between these undulating hills and the range bordering on the East Bay, through which flow the Grand, the Salmon, and the Mirá rivers. The low hills on the coast consist chiefly of metamorphosed Devonian and upper Silurian rocks—the low country in the interior, of sandstones, shales, and limestones, of the carboniferous system.

From Scatari to the great entrance of the Bras d'Or Lakes, the numerous bays and harbours which indent the coast are bounded by cliffs varying from 20 to 100 feet in height, with here and there long beaches or dunes of sand produced by the abrading action of the ocean. The land rises very gradually from the coast towards the interior, to a height rarely exceeding 250 feet. The cliffs, composed of sandstones and shales of the upper carboniferous formation, exhibit in many places valuable seams of bituminous coal. They constitute the northern land boundary of the Sydney coal field, which occupies an area of 250 square miles. As the general dip of the strata is north-east or seaward, this great area of productive coal measures is in all probability the segment of a vastly greater area extending under the sea.

The country occupied by the upper and lower members of the carboniferous system rarely attains an elevation of more than 300 feet; so that if the whole island were depressed to that depth, there would remain only an archipelago mostly composed of long narrow islands of igneous and metamorphic rocks.

The principal rivers of Cape Breton are the Denys, the Baddeck, and the Wagamatcook, which flow into the Bras d'Or lakes; the Margarie, the Mabou, the Inhabitants, the Grand, and the Mirá, which discharge their waters into the sea. Small freshwater lakes are very numerous, both in the lowlands and the great plateau at the northern end of the island; the largest is Lake Ainslie, the source of the southern branch of the Margarie river, which covers an area of twenty-five square miles.

Excellent harbours abound on the north-east, the south-east, and the south-west coast; the harbours of St. Ann's, the great entrance of the Bras d'Or, Sydney, Louisbourg, Arichat, Hawkesbury, and Port Hood, are navigable by ships of large