

Mediterranean were spread the marshes which gradually, through the Carboniferous ages, entombed the beds of peat and carbonaceous mud, which now exist as the coal beds, from which our precious stores of fossil fuel are derived. All the coal basins in which these deposits of coal are contained physiographically face toward the Gulf of St. Lawrence, except those of Cape Breton, which are just south of its outlet.

In the next chapter of our history the geological events of the eastern region soon become subordinate to those of the west. First, however, the east shows some striking features in the volcanic eruptions which produced the picturesque North Mountains of Nova Scotia. These mountains rest upon an old surface of red sandstones once spread over the area now occupied by the Bay of Fundy and the part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence where the fertile Prince Edward Island now lies.

It is in the west of Canada, however, that the deposits of this secondary, or Reptilian age, show the widest extent and greatest variety. The vast western plains and the Pacific borders show great areas overspread by deposits produced at this time. The Rocky Mountains were upheaved and a great continental belt was formed in Canada, against which were pressed up on the Pacific side rugged mountain ranges corresponding to those which in the preceding ages had been upheaved on the Atlantic side. There is this difference, however, that while the eastern ridges are separated from the old continental nucleus only by the width of the Gulf and Valley of the St. Lawrence, the western mountains are divided from the same nucleus by the great space of the western plains now forming the provinces and territories of Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, etc.

In the Tertiary, or Mammalian age of geology, we still find the western regions those of greatest interest. In all Eastern Canada, from Lake Superior eastward, there are no deposits to tell us of what was transpiring here or in other regions of the earth at this time, and of which so wide a history has been garnered in other parts of the earth; but on the western plains, and between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific, many an event of that old time has left its record — peaceful on the western plains, but marked by volcanic eruptions and violent disturbances of the earth's crust on the Pacific slope. In this period the Rocky Mountains and the western ranges received the impulses of elevation by which they came to dominate all the mountain ranges of Eastern Canada.

The closing chapter of the great events of the earth's history, known