

Western Nova Scotia being clearly attributable to the agency of moving ice, and the search for auriferous deposits having been shown to be ultimately connected with the direction and amount of boulder transport by this agency, one is naturally led to enquire what relations, if any, may be traced between such transfer and the position of existing valley depressions, as also whether or not any evidences can be obtained of former river channels, post-glacial or pre-glacial, different from those which now mark the surface. Regarding the former point it may be remarked that in the case of both Queens and Shelburne, the more considerable rivers, such as the Port Medway, Liverpool, Broad, Sable Jordan and Roseway, reach salt water at the head of corresponding indentations of the coast, and for long distances inland have very nearly the same course as the latter—a course (S. 10-20 E.) which corresponds also with the average direction of the drift. It is noticeable also that these streams, though large and rapid, occupy, as a rule, valleys of inconsiderable depth, the bed of the stream being often but a few feet below the level of the surrounding country. It may perhaps be inferred from these facts that the existing drainage is comparatively recent, and the circumstance already referred to that many of the lakes upon which these streams are so largely dependant are drift-dammed lakes, helps to give probability to this conclusion. If such is the case it may be presumed that most of the existing streams, originating in the melting ice of the glacial era, were directed in their flow by the local circumstances of the time, and to a large extent irrespective of previously existing channels, many of which may have been at the same time obliterated. As to whether or not any old and now abandoned channels of drainage exist or are to be recognized, almost nothing of a reliable nature is known. As, however, has been pointed out by Dr. Selwyn and others, the subject is a very important one, for in all gold regions such ancient river beds are found to be rich repositories of gold, and there is no reason to suppose that in this respect Nova Scotia is any exception. To determine this point very careful and minute studies both of the character and distribution of the superficial deposits of the Province are required, but these have not as yet been made.