

The Commercial Value of the Oil-Shales of Eastern Canada,
Based on their Contents by Analysis in Crude Oil and
Ammonium Sulphate.

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In a paper read before your society in March last on "Oil shales of the Maritime provinces" but little definite information as to their extent and economic value, especially as regards the deposits which occur in Nova Scotia, could be given beyond certain statements taken largely from the reports of Mr. J. Campbell and contained in How's *Mineralogy of Nova Scotia*, 1868. Even as regards the shales of New Brunswick, where the presence of oil-bearing strata has been known for many years at a number of points, but few reliable analyses were available by which their content in crude oil and ammonia could be ascertained. In New Brunswick our knowledge of the oil-bearing shales was much further advanced, owing to the mining which had been carried on for a quarter of a century on the large vein of albertite, which occurred in connection with the series of black-grey and brown, generally bituminous shales which, in that province, had long been known under the name "Albert shales." The supposed equivalent of this formation as developed in Nova Scotia was, by Sir William Dawson, styled the Horton series. While however in their contained fossils, in certain physical features, and in stratigraphical position, these two series of sediments have been long recognized as contemporaneous formations, the peculiar development of hydrocarbons, so conspicuous in the Albert shales of New Brunswick, has served to distinguish them in certain respects from the shales of the Horton series of Nova Scotia. As to their economic value, the statements made some years ago by Mr. Campbell, as given in the report mentioned, were found to be somewhat vague in several particulars.