older rock which have afforded no fossils, and which probably underlie those just referred to and may be Lower Silurian beds tending downward to the Cobequid series and connected with it.

Rocks of this character are well developed in the basin of Lake Murdoch, where, according to Mr. Gilpin, they are cut off from the Blanchard ore-series by a fault on the southern side. They are traceable to the eastward, apparently underlying the beds associated with the "Webster" ore-bed, and are well seen still further to the eastward on the upper waters of the French These | ds differ considerably in mineral character from River. any others in the district, though resembling in this respect rocks seen at the Blue Mountain, near Eden Lake, and on the East Branch of the St. Mary's River. They contain thick beds of Nacreous or Hydro-mica slates, coarse slates, sometimes having a conglomerated or brecciated appearance, green chloritic or epidotic rocks, quartzite and agglomerate, and felsitic rocks. They have afforded no fossils, and appear to me to be quite distinct from the Upper Silurian formation. In the meantime they may be connected with the Cobequid series, with the typical rocks of which series they are certainly closely associated farther to the eastward.

One of the marked features of the Upper Silurian in the district in question is the great development of bedded red hematite, and of rocks more or less impregnated with this ore. With reference to its origin, this ore is evidently a marine deposit, and formed under conditions sufficiently favorable to marine life to enable it to contain many shells of Brachiopods and remains of other animals. It is evidently a chemical deposit or precipitate, and often assumes an oolitic structure. In the coarser or more impure beds the little concretions of oxide of iron often surround grains of sand, and the ore passes into a ferruginous sandstone. The following section taken from a MS, Report of Dr. G. M. Dawson shows the great development of the lower bed in one of its exposures. These deposits of iron ore apparently began locally in an early part of the Upper Silurian period, and were continued into the Lower Helderberg period, while in the western part of Nova Scotia, in the Nictaux district, we have evidence of their continuance into the Oriskany age.

Another marked feature of these deposits is the absence of any representative of the great Niagara limestone, and the consequent passage upward of Clinton deposits into those of Lower Helder-