

In Canada, no clay slates have yet been discovered among the Laurentian rocks, the strata of this series which approach nearest clay slates in composition, being always massive, and usually of a crystalline character. Slaty rocks, approaching argillites, have been found in several places among the Huronian series. For example, specimens from the Montreal River, about five miles from its junction with Lake Temiscaming, have the characters of roofing slate, but the plates into which they split are scarcely as thin as desirable. Among these rocks, on the north side of Lake Superior, greenish-black and greenish-blue slates, some of which may be fit for roofing, are found on the Kaministiquia River above the Grand Falls, and slates which are said to be available for this purpose, occur on the Slate Islands, and at Anse à la Bouteille.

In Eastern Canada the argillaceous bands of the Quebec Group, in many places yield good roofing slates, which have already been successfully wrought in a few localities. The most important of these is the Walton Slate Quarry, in Melbourne, to be described further on. The Melbourne Slate band, in its northeastward extension, crosses the St. Francis River into Cleveland, where, in 1854, a quarry was opened on the 6th lot of the 9th Range, but after a time abandoned, from the band being too narrow to pay to overcome the difficulties in the way of working it. The slate produced was nearly black in color and of the best quality. The locality is on the Grand Trunk Railway, about three miles south of the village of Richmond. On the 4th lot of the 1st range of Kingsey, reddish-purple slates of a good kind are found in the high eastern bank of the St. Francis River, about seven miles below Richmond Station. The Kingsey slates are not so hard and smooth as those of Melbourne and Cleveland. A Montreal company attempted to work this quarry, but abandoned it after grading a railway track down the bank of the St. Francis from the Grand Trunk at Richmond. The failure to carry out this enterprise, appears to have prejudiced Montreal capitalists against slate quarrying generally, and to Mr. Benjamin Walton remained the honor of first demonstrating its profitable nature, and of developing a great slate quarry in Canada—a quarry which is unsurpassed by any in the world, either in the quality of the slates produced, or in the facilities for working. The Kingsey slate band is continued into the Township of Durham, on the west side of the St. Francis, and has been worked to a small extent on the 6th lot of the 4th range. At the slate rapids on the Black River,

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