

to north and are entirely surrounded by granite or gneiss. These bands are merely remnants of a once more widespread series of rocks which were reduced in area by the intrusion of the granites and by erosion. They are economically the most important rocks met with since they are cut by a number of quartz veins which may contain some of the precious metals. These bands of Tazin rocks are the areas to which prospectors should devote their attention in prospecting in the region.

The Tazin rocks are everywhere intruded by granites and gneisses of a great, composite batholith, which covers 86 per cent of the country along the route of our traverse. Granites and gneisses of different ages are here grouped together, but some of the massive varieties are clearly younger than the gneissic. The trend of the gneiss is mainly north and south, conforming to the trend of the rocks in the Cordilleran region rather than of those in eastern Canada.

A small remnant of conglomerate of the Athabaska sandstone formation rests on the decomposed surface of the granite at the northeast end of Tazin lake. From its physical and chemical characters this formation is probably a land deposit and is correlated with the Keweenawan.

Over the surface of the solid rocks is spread thin and scattered deposits of Glacial and post-Glacial drift material. The drift is nowhere abundant, except at the mouth of Taltson river where this stream enters the old delta plain of Slave river.

One of the most marked features of the region is the evidence of the intensity of the glaciation with the resulting freshness and unweathered character of the rock surface. The rocks are everywhere rounded, grooved, and striated and, even in the beds of streams where erosion and obliteration of glacial markings would be expected to be most rapid, striae still remain. In general, the region is characterized by glacial erosion and removal of material rather than by glacial deposition. Deposits such as boulder clay, moraines, drumlins, sand-plains, while present, are not as widespread as in the region farther south and west, and, consequently, the streams have little sediment to carry.