

older beds of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Within the Coast Range the Cretaceous rocks are probably for the most part equivalent in age to the Upper Neocomian. The Cretaceous rocks are of great thickness, both on the coast and inland, and include extensive contemporaneous volcanic beds.

The Pre-Cretaceous beds have been much disturbed and altered before the deposition of the Cretaceous, and their investigation is difficult. On Vancouver Island, beds probably Carboniferous in age include great masses of contemporaneous volcanic material, with limestones, and become altered to highly crystalline rocks resembling those of parts of the Huronian of Eastern Canada. In the Queen Charlotte Islands these beds also probably occur, but an extensive calcareous argillite formation is there found, which is characterised by its fossils as Triassic.

The Coast Range is supposed to be built up chiefly of rocks like those of Vancouver Island, but still more highly altered, and appearing as gneisses, mica-schists, &c., while a persistent argillaceous and slaty zone is supposed to represent the Triassic argillites of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The older rocks of the interior plateau are largely composed of quartzites and limestones; but still hold much contemporaneous volcanic matter, together with serpentine. Carboniferous fossils have been found in the limestones in a number of places. The Triassic is also represented in some places by great contemporaneous volcanic deposits with limestones.

In the Gold Range, the conditions found in the Coast Range are supposed to be repeated; but it is probable that there are here also extensive areas of Archæan rocks. Some small areas of ancient crystalline rocks supposed to be of this age have already been discovered.

The Rocky Mountain Range consists of limestones with quartzites and shaly beds, dolomites and red sandstones. The latter have been observed near the 49th parallel, and are supposed to be Triassic in age. The limestones are, for the most part, Carboniferous and Devonian, and no fossils have yet been discovered indicating a greater age than the last-named period. On the 49th parallel, however, the series is supposed to extend down to the Cambrian, and compares closely with the sections of the region east of the Wahsatch, on the 40th parallel, given by Clarence King. Volcanic material is still present in the Carboniferous rocks on the 49th parallel.