

## **The Malagash Salt Deposit, Cumberland County, N.S.**

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### **INTRODUCTION.**

The salt at Malagash occurs as a stratified deposit interbedded with rocks of the Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) period and apparently forms an integral portion of the Windsor (Carboniferous limestone) series.

This report presents the results of field work carried on in June and July, 1919, with the object of ascertaining the mode of occurrence and probable extent of the deposit. The geology is illustrated by two areal maps with structure sections, one of Malagash peninsula on a scale of 1 mile to 1 inch, the other a more detailed map of the vicinity of the mine workings on a scale of 800 feet to 1 inch. After a brief review of the history and previous work, the stratigraphy and structural geology are described.

The discovery of rock salt at a depth sufficiently shallow for its recovery by mining has directed attention to the distribution of sedimentary rocks of similar geological age. In the hope that other sources of salt may be found, and as interest has also been aroused in the possibility that potash, in commercial quantity, may be associated with the salt, a review of the literature describing salt springs in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is given, and the locations of certain springs is indicated on the index map.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.**

The kindness of the residents and the hospitality of Mr. Charles W. Clarke, on whose farm a camp was maintained, are greatly appreciated, and the many courtesies by which Messrs. A. R. Chambers and G. Walker McKay aided the work are gratefully acknowledged.

H. W. McKiel and D. D. Foster carried on their work as assistants most satisfactorily. The plane-table topographic map was prepared by Mr. Foster.

### **HISTORY AND PREVIOUS WORK.**

Brine springs have been known locally for many years. Boring for water on his farm at North Shore, in 1912, Mr. Peter Murray obtained a flow of salt water at a depth of about 80 feet. In June, 1917, Mr. A. R. Chambers, associated with Mr. George Walker McKay of New Glasgow, commenced prospecting by drilling. Twelve holes were sunk by a churn drill in an area of about one-tenth of a square mile, and brine was obtained from six of these at depths varying from 85 to 113 feet below the surface. Diamond-drill boring proved the presence of salt in place extending from a