

shades of red and gray. One small outcrop only, at the crossing of Mary March's River, which exhibits distinct lines of stratification and consists of a reddish quartzite with thin, ribbon-like layers of pale-blue cherty slate standing vertically, is an exception. It probably represents some portion of the preceding sedimentary series in a highly altered condition.

Numerous boulders of the country rock are strewn all over this section, indicating a vast amount of denudation. They are chiefly granitoid, but some partake of a porphyritic structure, and trap greenstones form a considerable percentage of the whole, though this rock was not seen in place in the immediate vicinity of the railway line. Amongst the many varieties of granite met with several beautiful, ornamental stones occur, while ordinary building material is abundant. Mr. Reid had established a quarry on the eastern slope of the Three Topsails ridge, from which much of the material used in the construction of his bridge piers west of the Exploits River crossing was obtained. The rock is a peculiar greenish-gray syenite in massive beds, which was found to cleave readily in any desired direction, affording an easily-wrought material which dressed with little difficulty into any shaped block required. Though a handsome stone when freshly quarried, I am of opinion it will not hold its colour; the presence of a great deal of magnetic iron disseminated through the rock in minute crystals is apt to decompose when exposed to the weather and cause discolouration. A very handsome, red granite, in thick, horizontal beds, occurs on Rowsell's Brook, a few miles north of the line. It greatly resembles the Peter Head granite of Scotland. A beautiful rose-pink variety crops out on the track near the Gaff Topsail, and a very peculiar, yellowish variety is seen also near the same point. The Topsails themselves are composed of rather coarse, grayish syenite.

Westward of the Gaff Topsail no rock is exposed near the line till reaching the forks of Kitty's Brook. Here a fine closed-grained reddish syenite crosses the Brook. A similar rock is exposed in one or two places on the Brook further down and at the Fall forms precipitous cliffs of fifty or sixty feet in height. Immediately below the Falls they are overlaid by rocks of the Carboniferous Series which have been fully treated of in the reports for 1891-92.

It was a marked feature of this great granitic belt that while