

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The chief results of our work are the following:

(1) It has been proved that rocks of Keewatin age, similar in character to those of northern Ontario and the Lake Superior region, occur in large volume in southeastern Ontario. Heretofore it has been held by certain writers that Keewatin rocks do not occur here and that no basement for the Grenville sediments was to be found in this part of the Province. In some areas, rocks that in the past were called amphibolites, and were considered to be in whole or in part of sedimentary origin, are found to be more or less highly metamorphosed Keewatin lavas.

(2) The Grenville sediments have been classified and their relations determined. These sediments were deposited on the surface of the Keewatin lavas, and consist, normally, at the base of greywacké or quartzite, fine in grain, rusty schist (clay rock), and iron formation (banded chert or jaspilite); the last-named rock had not previously been recognized in southeastern Ontario, Fig. 7. Although at times the sediments may be more or less mixed or interbedded, above those mentioned come crystalline limestone that is essentially magnesian, and finally crystalline limestone that is essentially non-magnesian. No unconformity has been observed within the Grenville.

While it seems likely that erosion of part of the surface of the Keewatin preceded or accompanied the deposition of the Grenville sediments, an unconformity has not been proved to exist between the latter and the Keewatin lavas.

It is also not unlikely that sedimentation and the outpouring of lava took place partly contemporaneously. Sediment, especially the finer fragmental material, from submarine lavas is difficult to distinguish, under conditions in which the Grenville rocks are now found, from land-derived sediment. It is believed by most authorities that clays and certain other materials in the deeper parts of the ocean are formed, by decomposition in sea water, from fragments of submarine lavas and from other inorganic material transported from a distance. If such sediments were submitted to the extreme metamorphism that the Grenville rocks have undergone, they would, in all probability, be indistinguishable from ordinary land-derived material.

(3) Granites of two ages have been recognized. The older of the two (Laurentian) which is gneissoid in character, intrudes both the Keewatin and the Grenville, but is older than certain pre-Cambrian conglomerates and other sediments of the region. The younger granite intrudes all the sediments. Granites of both ages are extensively developed, and, heretofore, they have not been differentiated as regards their age.

(4) Conglomerates and other pre-Cambrian fragmental sediments of the region were at one time grouped with the less highly metamorphosed, or blue, crystalline limestones, and the name Hastings was applied to them. We place most of the blue limestones in the Grenville and restrict the name Hastings to the conglomerates, with some limestones, and other sediments that we have proved to be post-Laurentian in age. The Hastings rocks, as here defined, have been found at various places across a strip of country sixty-five miles in length, from the township of Belmont in Peterborough county on the southwest to the township of Palmerston in Frontenac county on the northeast. On following pages reference is made to the views that have been held concerning the Hastings and Grenville series.

(5) Intrusives, later in age than the Hastings sediments, are represented by gabbro with extrusive facies (basalt and tuff), and granite.

(6) The crystalline limestones and other Grenville sediments in southeastern Ontario constitute a series of great thickness, and are found to be of pre-Laurentian age. The great volume of the sediments older than the Laurentian appears not to justify the separation of the Laurentian and earlier rocks from those of later pre-Cambrian age. In other words, a dual subdivision of the pre-Cambrian into an upper characteristically sedimentary group above the Laurentian and a lower igneous complex, including the Grenville, is not logical. Hence the writers do not make use of the terms Aigoukian and Archean, or Proterozoic and Archeozoic, employed by many authors.