

are many views expressed as to the genesis of serpentines and an enumeration of them would require more time than we have at our disposal. It can be stated however that in the opinion of some, serpentines are formed (by metasomatism) from feldspathic rocks, such as diorites, diabases, granulites, &c., &c., or by a complete elimination of alumina and lime and the replacement of these bases by magnesia; others maintain that they are derived from the transformation of silico-magnesian deposits. Again would it not be possible to suppose that they might be formed from the limestones themselves, when we take into consideration the serpentinic structure of the Eozoon Canadense.

It is also mentioned by some that they are due to the hydration of eruptive olivine rocks, while others hold that they were ejected from the earth's interior in a state of aqueous magma or mud. Some of those who maintain their origin from the hydration of olivine rocks suppose such eruptive rocks to have passed into a hydrous state before being ejected.

If we consider all the transformations we can perform, with different temperatures and under different pressures in our laboratories which are so imperfect as compared to the great, wonderful, and unknown laboratory of the whole universe, we are at no loss in finding theories enough as regards the genesis of serpentines, for hypotheses are easily adopted, even by following the strict and well established chemical and physical laws.

This is not the place nor the time to enter into discussion as to the mode of formation of the rocks which will be described in this short notice as it is the intention of the writer to show, in the best way possible, the characters of our serpentines and their association with rocks of very highly scientific as well as of economic interest, without questioning mother Nature too much as to the course followed by her in giving rise to serpentine and the interesting series of minerals associated with it.

Let us then consider the serpentine as it actually is, a rock which enterprising capitalists, most serious chemists and zealous geologists look upon with so much speculating spirit and such contradictory views, without trying to solve the great problem of origin, a thing beyond reach.