

Though the St. John's slates are of a hard and tough nature, they are, nevertheless the least durable of all the rocks comprising the great Huronian series, to which the whole of these strata are referable. The angles of inclination at which the various bands dip from the horizon are of course subject to the intensity or otherwise of the movements which have effected the whole series. In the vicinity of the harbor, however, the dip becomes more regular, though maintaining a high angle, with an inclination towards the South Side hill.

Over the entire surface of the country, wherever depressions in the rock crust admit of it, a superficial deposit consisting of sand, gravel and clay is everywhere met with, the debris of the disintegrated and denuded rocks themselves. Apart from the ordinary atmospheric action other agencies, but especially ice in the form of glaciers, has added its influence in remodeling the contour of the whole country. The enormous abrading power which the latter exerted is made apparent, not only in the character of these superficial deposits, but more clearly in the rounded, grooved and polished surfaces presented by the rocks wherever exposed to view. The effect produced by the movement of the ice-sheet in its downward tendency from the higher levels towards the sea, was to dislodge from their parent beds all projecting fragments of rock, grind down the surfaces over which it passed, push before it, or carry upon its sides, vast piles of rubbish, which it finally deposited or left after it in the deeper hollows, in the form of unstratified drift or till. The harder sandstones and argillites resisting to a certain extent the onward movement, diverted its course, and directed the full force of the great ice-plough to seek the line of least resistance, viz., along the strike of the softer St. John's slate band. In the course of time the result was the deeply grooved valley and basin of the harbor as it now exists. The finely pulverized slate, with a certain proportion of oxide of iron and lime derived from mineral veins intersecting the adjacent rocks, combined with the fragments of the rocks themselves, all firmly cemented together, forms the till in question. In fact, it is a natural concrete of a very durable description. Upon reaching it in the course of excavating the Dock Basin, it was found so extremely tough that much labor was expended in removing a thin layer from its surface. Such then is the material upon