

at the outset between modern movements and those which, so far as can be seen, may have been completed some time ago. To avoid any misunderstanding that might arise from the use of the term "recent"¹ for the period covered approximately by the twenty centuries of the Christian era, the term "modern" will here be used.

Among the supposed evidences of modern subsidence of the coast in New Brunswick, those to which attention is here invited are:—

- (1) A rapid recession of the coastline now in progress;
- (2) The presence of drowned valleys;
- (3) The presence of barrier beaches;
- (4) Recurved hooks, dipping beneath lagoons;
- (5) Trees dying because of an invasion by high tides;
- (6) Peat bogs whose bottoms lie below high tide mark;
- (7) Old beaches on prograding shores, whose crests are lower than the crests of more modern beaches outside of them.

Such a varied list of evidences would seem to constitute a strong argument for the commonly accepted view that the New Brunswick coast is now sinking. An examination of the several lines of evidence, however, seems to show that convincing proof of modern subsidence here, is yet to be discovered; while, on the other hand, as some writers have maintained, there are some indications that the coast for several centuries has been nearly, if not perfectly stable.

SUPPOSED EVIDENCES OF SUBSIDENCE.

Recession of the Coastline.—As all who live on exposed portions of the New Brunswick coast are aware, and as Professor Ganong as pointed out in several of his physiographic and historical papers, the coast is being cut back at a rapid rate. Among the hundreds of illustrations which might be given, are the sites of the old French establishments at Fort Nipisiguit, Fort Moncton, and Little Shippigan, which have been more or less completely

¹ Which, according to the best usage, is synonymous with the "human" or "post-Glacial" period.