considerable number, as well as several saline and sulphurous springs, are known to exist in the district.

The limestone above described is very copiously charged with organic remains, and the petroleum owes its origin, in all probability, to the slow subterranean decomposition and bitumenization of organic matter, both animal and vegetable, which has been deposited with the other materials of which the rocks are composed. The resulting fluid and gaseous matters, floating on the surface of the water which permeates the strata, will naturally accumulate along the summit of the anticlinal axes or convex folds of the strata, penetrating the fissures and cracks, which will there also be most numerous and important. The investigations of the geologists have revealed the existence of four such folds or anticlinal lines in the oil-bearing rocks of Gaspé.

The importance and value of these lines of anticlinal axis consist, as already explained, in the fact (first pointed out by Dr. T. S. Hunt, of the Canadian Geological Survey) that it is along these lines that the greatest accumulation of oil may always be expected. Being thoroughly satisfied of the truth of this principle, I have selected the land accordingly, for the most part, and it is highly satisfactory to find that all the discoveries of oil throughout the region, whether fully authenticated or only reported, occur on or very near to the lines referred to. The rocks are, for the most part, very lightly covered with earth and clay, so that the lines of anticlinal axis will be easily discovered on the ground, and thus a sure guide to the most favorable places for boring will readily be found.

The country is, for the most part, rugged and mountainous, the mountain chains—reaching to the height of about fifteen hundred feet above the level of the sea—alternating with great valleys, holding considerable rivers and arms of the sea. Numerous transverse valleys also occur, affording extensive flats at many points. The lines of anticlinal axis where the oil-bearing limestone is not only brought nearest to the surface, but is in the most favorable condition other-