## THE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT OF NOVA SOOTIA.

Colchester, and Cumberland counties are provisionally classified as Permo-Carboniferous, the only "recent" rocks in Nova Scotia are represented by a few narrow bands of Triassic sandstones around the shores of the Bay of Fundy.

The Carboniferous are divided into five groups, the Upper, the Middle or productive, the Millstone Grit, the Marine Limestone, and the Lower Carboniferous.

In the upper division there are a few seams known, not of economic value. In the productive group, having an average thickness of about 5,000 feet, the chief coal industry is carried on. There are three districts, Sydney, in Cape Breton county, Pictou, in the county of the same name, and Springhill, in the county of Cumberland. These districts will be referred to in greater detail. The Millstone Grit series, as a rule, immediately surrounds the basins of productive measures. It holds seams of coal which have been worked in the Sydney district, and is known to contain seams at many other points. So far, these seams have received little attention in the presence of the larger seams of the true coal horizon, but there is every reason to believe that they will prove an important source of coal in the future, and widely extend the limits at present considered productive.

The Marine Limestone formation is distinguished in Nova Scotia by enormous deposits of limestone, gypsum, and marl, and holds many springs of saliferous water, and beds of iron ore, etc. The Lower Carboniferous measures are often composed of conglomerates, or contain thick beds of bituminous shale. So far as the author knows, they have not yielded beds of workable coal.

## COAL-FIELDS.

The Sydney coal-field is situated on the Atlantic, on the eastern shore of Cape Breton, and extends about 32 miles along the shore and about 6 miles inland. This area forms the western rim of a great basin extending out under the Atlantic. Fortunately, nearly all the seams can be followed in their subaqueous extension. It has been estimated that, within 3 miles of the shore, to a depth of 4,000 feet, adopting the calculations of the Royal Commission on the duration of Great Britain's coal supply, there are available 2,000,000,000 tons of submarine coal.

The coal-field presents itself as the outcrop of three subordinate basins, the upper seams in which, enter the land, swing round, and again enter the sea to re-appear on the land.

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