

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Under the designation of "Digby Neck" will be included, for the purposes of this paper, not only the long narrow ridge properly so called, together with the isthmus by which this is connected with the mainland of Nova Scotia, but also what is clearly but a former extension of this ridge through Long and Briar Islands.

As thus regarded, the area naturally becomes divided physically, as it is also geologically, into two portions, of which the one, comprising the isthmus referred to, is comparatively low, while the other, more by the abruptness of the contrast than by the possession of any considerable altitude, may almost be termed mountainous. This latter is indeed the extension, westward of Digby Gut, of what, eastward of the latter, is commonly known as the North-Mountain range.

The total length of this belt of high land, from the Gut to the extremity of Briar Island, is 44 miles; and for much of the distance the breadth varies but little from a mile and three quarters. There are, however, places, as at Sandy Cove, where indentations on opposite sides of the peninsula considerably reduce the actual distance from water to water, while at Petite Passage, and again at Grand Passage, transverse gorges, excavated completely through the peninsula and of great depth, give free movement to those waters as well as to navigation, from side to side. On the other hand, the breadth of the isthmus connecting the mountains with the mainland is, between the one and the other, only about three miles, while between Annapolis Basin and the head of St. Mary's Bay it is about five miles. Near the town of Digby the connecting isthmus includes some rather high and no very low land, but the elevation declines both in the direction of the foot of the higher hills and again towards the head of St. Mary's Bay, where, upon the ebb of the tide, the low shores are prolonged outward into extensive mud-flats.

The maximum elevation of the hilly range is about 350 feet. It would be very incorrect, however, to regard this as a simple ridge extending through the peninsula and sloping from a