

ny and liable from its clayey
ertheless, certain tracts, when
on, form perhaps the strongest
ereals. It is possible, situated
outhwestern limit of the great
ions of the calcareous material
ted thither in the Ice Age, to
eir fertility.

described, it may be remarked
a botanical eye when they are
area. Hemlock spruce, black
er trees, which are rare or
localities, are here common
ent and great stretches of the
almost denuded of forests by
in the valley bottoms and in

ous sediments, which borders
Middie Carboniferous forma-
ble soil, containing, usually,
utter. A wide area of these
ey, and a smaller one on the
are so narrow that they are
ous rocks; but, in general, the
is easily recognised, owing to
in the fertility of the district.
ique outlier have been much
During an exploration of that
ed, however, that many farms
cleared and buildings erected

The cause of this was not
while the region is of a highly
possibility militate against its
er, are flat and imperfectly
cheyey hard-pan forming the
ent slope to drain it well, are
ies characterized by a surface
ttlements.

along the southwestern rim of
Sunbury, Kings and Albert
ming lands, which have been

m are gypsum, at the Plaster

Cliffs, Victoria county, and at Petitecodiac, Westmoreland county,
Hillsboro', Albert County, etc.; also lime and marly shales in the last
mentioned localities.

A luxuriant growth of wood is generally found upon soil derived from
these rocks. White and black spruce, hemlock, white, yellow and black
birches, two or three species of maple, which, with beech, usually form
groves, are the commonest trees on the uplands, and cedar, haematac,
ash, etc., on the low grounds.

Forest growth
on Lower Car-
boniferous.

The soils which overlie the Middle Carboniferous series are almost
wholly derived from the disintegration of the grey sandstones and con-
glomerates below, and partake in a large degree of their coarse
silicious nature. The area occupied by them, which comprises fully
one-third of the province, is, generally speaking, flat, with a gentle
slope towards the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Low, wide undulations, having
a general east and west course, are met with over a large part of the area,
but more especially south of the Miramichi River. The soil is, for the
most part, deep, but often stony; and when level, usually has a clayey
hard-pan forming the sub-soil upon which water lies, giving rise to peat
bogs, "caribou plains," or "barrens." The best lands for agricultural
purposes are those met with along the banks of rivers already described,
where the natural drainage is sufficient to carry off the surplus waters
due to precipitation. With a copious supply of lime, in which the soil
overlying these rocks is almost entirely deficient, together with organic
manures, it becomes excellent land for hay and grain. Several tracts
might be particularized, such as Nappan valley and Doaktown, in Nor-
thumberland county; St. Louis, Richibucto and Buctouche, in Kent;
the Petitecodiac valley in Westmoreland, etc.

Soils overlying
Middle Carbon-
iferous series.

The farms along the coast and around the estuaries in this district are,
all things considered, much better adapted for general agricultural pur-
poses than those of the interior, as manures and fertilizers of different
kinds are to be obtained there, which are beyond the reach of farmers
occupying the latter. Oyster beds, forming what is called "mussel mud,"
are common everywhere in the lagoons and creeks, and yield a
material of highly enriching qualities for the heavier clay soils. The
calcareous skeletons of fish are often applied to the land also with
great advantage. Much benefit is afforded the drier gravelly soils, too,
by supplying them with quantities of vegetable matter from the wet
bogs and swamps, more especially if it is first formed into a compost by
mixture with barn-yard manure.

But the principal cause of the superior quality of the land along the
coast and river margins, within the Carboniferous district, lies in the
fact that it is better drained than that of the interior overlying
the same formation. And here, it may be remarked that the

Drainage.