
REPORT OF PROGRESS.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES, EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K. T., BARON BRUCE OF KINROSS AND OF TORRY, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Governor General of British North America, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MONTREAL, 14th May, 1852.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

I have the honor of presenting to Your Excellency the Report annually required, of the progress made in the Geological Survey of the Province. In doing so, I have to state that the district, of which the examination was last season assigned to my assistant, Mr. Murray, comprised the country lying between the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, from the junction of these two rivers, to the neighborhood of Bytown on the one and Kingston on the other; and accompanying this, his Report on the district is transmitted to Your Excellency. The labors of Mr. Hunt have been bestowed upon a continuation of his analyses of soils from both sections of the Province, as well as the investigation of various mineral waters and mineral substances, obtained in the examination of the rocks in different districts, and also of some of the rocks themselves, with a view of illustrating facts connected with their metamorphism. His Report on these subjects is now submitted to Your Excellency.

Immediately after my return from the performance of the duties I had undertaken to discharge in England connected with the Canadian mineral contribution to the Industrial Exhibition, my time was devoted to the investigation of the country lying between the Province line, in the county of Beauharnois, and the Rivière du Nord, in that of the Lake of Two Mountains. In the neighborhood of Beauharnois, my explorations were carried on in conjunction with Mr. Murray, and in the county of the Lake of Two Mountains by myself; and previous to the close of the season an opportunity was taken to visit the valley of the Chaudière, with a view of ascertaining facts connected with the gold washing on the Rivière du Loup, and to make an excursion to the Rivière Ouelle, to inspect a deposit which occurs there, holding nodules consisting of phosphate of lime.

The physical structure of the country between Beauharnois and the Rivière du Nord, is so connected with that of the district farther westward, which came more immediately under the notice of Mr. Murray, that a proper description of it necessarily include the results of examination. The same succession of formations spreads out under both parts, and they are in ascending order as follows:—

- Metamorphic or Gneissoid group.
- Potsdam sandstone.
- Calciferous sandrock.
- Chazy, Birdseye and Trenton limestones.
- Utica slate.

The general mineral and fossil characters of these formations, in the area which came under my observation, do not differ materially from those which they possess in districts that have been noticed in previous Reports, nor from those in the district