Lake St. Clair has an average depth of about 12 feet and a maximum depth of 22 feet. The floor, except some limited areas of mud and clay in the centre, is overlaid everywhere with sand. The coast lines are low and often marshy, and, along the Canadian side fronting the counties of Essex and Kent, the land is barely elevated above the lake surface. The whole country here has quite the characteristics of the modern prairie, and its formation is unundoubtedly due to similar causes which are still in operation. Centuries of growth and decay of tall grasses, rushes and sedges in the extensive shallow marshes bordering the lake gradually contributed a black loamy soil which even now is not much above the level of Lake St. Clair. And not only has there been a more intimate connection with Lake Erie, but that the lake has at one time been somewhat deeper and is gradually filling up, is shown by the character of the deposits on its floor and by the extensive, progressive delta of the St. Clair River. The heavier sediments in the waters coming from Lake Huron have been deposited in this lake, whilst the lighter silt appears to have been carried onwards towards and to Lake Erie.

The Detroit River, which now connects Lakes St. Clair and Erie, flows through a flat prairie-like country, but slightly elevated in most of its course above the water level. At the outlet of the river, on the Michigan side, extensive marshes prevail for some distance along the lake coast. The soil, however, is a fine yellow or drab-coloured silt containing minute grains of sand—the filterings no doubt from the coarser material deposited in Lake St. Clair.

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For a lake of such wide area, Lake Erie is remarkably shallow. A line drawn from the City of Erie in Pennsylvania to Port Rowan, near Long Point, would have on its western side more than two-thirds of the lake area, and yet the maximum depth there does not exceed 84 feet. Again, a line from Pt. Pelée to Sandusky would form the eastern boundary of a large section, the greatest depth of which,