

chain, as they belong to the azoic age, while those to the south belong to the paleozoic period. Between these two chains, there are in the valleys of the St. Lawrence and some of its tributaries the mountains known as Mounts Rougemont, Belœil, St. Therese and Mount Royal.

*Laurentian System*—The general trend of the Laurentides is from north-east to south-west. From the eastern frontier of the province, that is to say, from Labrador, to the neighborhood of the Saguenay, the Laurentides form a sort of compact mass or barrier only broken through by the courses of the large rivers which cut it transversely, and stretch in width from the coast to the "height of lands." In approaching the region of the Saguenay, the chain separates into two distinct ranges: 1° that of the "height of lands," which describes a great curve towards the north to turn the great valley of Lake St. John and then continues almost in a straight line to form the northern watershed of the Ottawa basin; 2° that of the Laurentides properly so called, which skirts the St. Lawrence to Cape Tourmente, and then begins gradually to run back from the river to a distance of thirty miles or forty-eight kilometres in rear of Montreal, thus forming the southern watershed of the basin of Lake St. John and the Ottawa river.

Along this whole distance, the average height of the Laurentides is about 1,600 feet or 493 metres. But this height is not uniform. Between Lake St. John and Murray Bay, the principal crest of the chain attains an altitude of 4,000 feet, 1,220 metres, over the sea level, while the summits of the mountains nearest to the St. Lawrence are little more than half as high. Bayfield has estimated at 2,547 feet, or 776 metres, the height of the Eboulement mountain between Murray Bay and Bay St. Paul. He sets down at 1,919 feet, 585 metres, the height of Cape Tourmente, and to 2,687 feet, 819 metres, that of the St. Anne mountain, twenty miles below Quebec. It is these mountains which impart to the surroundings of our ancient capital that grand and picturesque aspect which is so much admired by all travellers.

In the region to the north of the Ottawa river, the highest summit is that of the Trembling mountain, in the county of Argenteuil — its elevation being 2,060 feet or 628 metres, while that of the surrounding hills varies between 1,000 and 1,200 feet, 304 and 364 metres.

Between the Saguenay and the Ottawa, the principal ridge of the Laurentides is flanked on the north side by a multitude of foothills and precipitous spurs, cut by deep and narrow gorges; with the exception of that of Lake St. John, the valleys are all small and the basins very numerous, but unimportant, the great basins of the Saguenay, St. Maurice and Ottawa, which are immense, always excepted. The summits of these mountains are generally rounded and form mamelons divided the one from the other by canons and breaches giving rise to valleys, plateaus, gorges and thousands of lakes, some of which are pretty extensive. Save a few bare peaks here and there, these summits are all clothed with forests of conifer and certain hard woods, while the valleys support a forest growth of deciduous trees and of pine, spruce, cedar and other woods, which supply the timber trade.

The average elevation of the great interior plateau, in which the basin of Lake St. John and the Upper Ottawa is situated, is about 600 feet above the sea level. Lake St. John, which occupies the eastern extremity of this great