

which at times form small partings, affecting to some extent the value of the material. The containing rock shows the presence of numerous faults, as in other mineral localities, which throw the veins from side to side, and at times completely cut off the entire working face of the mine. The sides of the fissure are in such cases extensively slickensided, and often have streaks of coarse, woody-fibred or imperfect asbestos along the planes of fracture. The growing importance of this industry may be seen from the fact that the output of the mineral has increased from 50 tons in 1878 to over 4,500 tons in 1888, while the demand and value are rapidly improving.

Apparently confined almost exclusively to the same group of Cambrian rocks are the gold deposits of Eastern Quebec. First discovered in 1835 on the Chaudière River and its tributaries, this industry for a long time almost entirely appertained to this locality, though a second and possibly quite as important gold field has been worked to some extent for the last fifteen or twenty years in the extreme south-easterly part of the Province, in the Township of Ditton. The rocks which constitute not only those which we now regard as the original source of the gold of this section, but the overlying Cambro-Silurian slates and limestones as well, were for many years regarded as of Upper Silurian age, although their resemblance to the Cambrian gold-bearing series of Nova Scotia had been pointed out long since by Sir Wm. Logan, Dr. Selwyn, Dr. Hunt and others; and the only reason apparent why these rocks were allowed for so many years to remain in the Silurian system was that the great importance of the geological problems pertaining to the structure of the metamorphic portion withdrew attention almost entirely from this area.

The Silurian age of these sediments was first of all inferred by the officers of the Geological Survey from their supposed resemblance to the rocks of that system which had been studied in Gaspé, and it was supposed that these formed the western prolongation of the Gaspé limestone series. The presence, also, of areas of fossiliferous Silurian and Devonian strata at various points, which were in places so intimately associated with the rocks of the great eastern basin as at first sight to appear to form an integral portion of the series, supported this first view as to their apparent horizon. In the subsequent detailed study of the country