

Red, grey and green shaly and marly beds, with thin beds of fine-grained grey, red or mottled limestone. Thickness 140 feet.

White, red and variegated calcareous sandstones and grits.

Red and grey conglomerates and sandstones, the former holding pebbles of Silurian slates.

The above succession is, in its main features, similar to that of the Lower Carboniferous formation as seen in Kings, Albert and Westmoreland counties.

The remarkable fertility of this Carboniferous area is attested by the character and the luxuriant growth of its indigenous vegetation, and had attracted attention long before any attempts were made to occupy it for settlement. Now, its fertility and value are fully recognized, and since it has been brought into closer connection with outside markets by the extension of the New Brunswick railway, it has shown a constant and rapid growth in population and productiveness.

The Carboniferous area of the Beccaguimic is considerably smaller as well as more irregular than that of the Tobique. It also presents a somewhat different succession of rocks.

Beccaguimic area.

Limits.

Its general form may be described as broadly triangular, with rounded angles and somewhat sinuous and interrupted margins. Two of these margins are coincident, or nearly so, with the two main branches of the Beccaguimic River, but west of the confluence of these streams the area extends to within a few miles of the St. John, where it was probably at one time connected with similar but smaller Carboniferous areas or outliers, occurring along the course of that stream.

Middle Carboniferous.

The highest rocks found in this district are included in the nearly elliptical area embraced by the two streams referred to above. They consist of a series of coarse, grey sandstones, associated with olive-grey freestones, both of which contain vegetable impressions in the form of broken stems. These are too imperfectly preserved to be identified, but the character and relations of the strata leave no doubt that the horizon is that of the millstone grit or base of the Middle Carboniferous. They dip uniformly at a low angle and their surface is consequently nearly flat, but where cut away by the valley of the South Branch they present towards the latter a bold escarpment, (nearly 400 feet in elevation) forming a prominent feature in the landscape. Portions of the flat thus formed are well wooded, but towards its eastern limit it is largely occupied by barrens and small lakes.

While the elliptical area above described, which forms the higher portion of the district, is thus occupied by Middle Carboniferous rocks, the deep valleys traversed by the main branches of the Beccaguimic dis-