

that its surface and climatal conditions were unfavorable to the labors of the husbandman. While, to a certain extent, this may be true of certain portions, large areas exist there which, underlaid by the calcareous slates and limestones of the Silurian and Devonian systems, possess a soil almost precisely similar to that on which the most prosperous settlements of western New Brunswick are situated, as seen in the counties of Carleton and Victoria; while through the interior of the peninsula extends a broad area, having no great elevation above the sea, bounded on either hand by lofty ranges, and which, but for its present comparative inaccessibility, would doubtless have long since been brought into prominence as a desirable country for the farmer or the stock-raiser. In this broad valley, which extends from the Metapedia River to the Gaspé Basin, most of the larger streams of the peninsula take their rise. On the hill slopes great quantities of valuable timber, spruce, pine and cedar, are found, while the upper portions of the rivers flow through extensive hay swamps, and the conditions are such, apparently, as to greatly favor the successful development of this section so soon as easy means of access are provided. At the present time the population is confined entirely to a narrow strip on either shore, but more particularly to the south side or that bordering on the Bay des Chaleurs, where the value of the rich soils of the Lower Carboniferous formation has long been known.

More than forty years ago, Logan and Murray explored many of the streams of the Gaspé district and scaled the rugged peaks of the Shick-Shoek range, not only for the purpose of studying their structure, but in order to effectively carry out a system of triangulation by which the prominent hill features of this almost inaccessible portion could be accurately mapped. Since then others have traversed the country in nearly every available direction, and have outlined its physical and geological structure with much care. It is, however, in that portion of the Province lying to the south and east of the St. Lawrence, between Quebec and the American boundary, that by far the greatest amount of detailed geological work has been done, and here, as everyone familiar with the history of Canadian geology knows, some of the most interesting and difficult problems peculiar to the science are presented, the complete working out of which has not yet been accomplished. Here the