

covered in this very district and elsewhere, from which an exact idea of the fauna which characterized the old Silurian seas about Ottawa could be had. The researches about Ottawa have, since the demise of that excellent palæontologist, been followed up with marked success by his nephew, Mr. Walter R. Billings, of our Club, and from that time, when the O. F. N. C. was organized, new and interesting results have been obtained regarding the completion of the geologic history of this district, a number of active workers having arisen, in whose hands there is a large store of work to be done as yet.

One of the first contributions to the geology of Ottawa, in the transactions of the Club, was the timely and interesting address delivered by Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, the able director of the Geological Survey, on the "Geology of the Ottawa Palæozoic Basin" (see Trans. O.F.N.C., Vol. III., page 34, *et seq.*). There is there given a graphic and instructive account of the various formations existing in the basin in question, which were deposited under such favourable circumstances on the shores and in the greater depths of those old palæozoic seas.

During the past nine years, the writer has had many opportunities, both as a member and leader in the geological section of the Club's work, to examine the geological formations of the district and enter into numerous details of structure, more interesting and instructive perhaps, than remunerative, nevertheless of considerable value in working out the geological history of Ottawa. With a view of giving in a concise and practical manner the result already obtained, it has been thought that a table or schedule might better illustrate the same than a detailed description.

The question of natural gas occurring or not occurring in the strata of the Ottawa district has been and is still being freely discussed—a question of considerable import from an economic standpoint and one which has given rise to this paper, written with a view of giving those interested in the matter a general idea of the succession of the rock formations as they are known in this vicinity. There are many problems involved in discussing the likelihood of gas occurring in a certain district. The characters of the strata, its thickness, composition, mode of occurrence and its distribution have everything to do with the occurrence of gas. The result of experiments made in other parts of the world, and especially in the United States, show that gas occurs in rocks of almost any age in the history of the earth, and in comparing the rocks of the Ottawa district with those of similar age