

division of the province into districts. In a work now nearing completion I have had to make such a division, and thus have given some study to the subject, with the following results. For a detailed natural division the counties, with their artificial boundaries, are not available; and the geology, with its correlated topography, is too irregular and complicated. We do find, however, a convenient and fairly natural division in the river systems, which for historical purposes is especially suitable, since they have powerfully influenced the distribution of settlements. But if we attempt to separate these systems by lines drawn along their watersheds (as is done on the accompanying map, fig. 1), we see at once that in a general way there is a correspondence between counties and river systems. This is, of course, no mere accidental coincidence, but is the result of a true causal relation, for the principle that has determined the setting off of our counties has been that of grouping them around the river basins and running their boundaries along the watersheds.* It will obviously be convenient in making our natural divisions to pay as much attention as possible to the familiar county divisions, and hence the boundaries of the latter may well be used to settle doubtful points in the natural divisions. There are two cases in which it is profitable to use the county divisions to determine details of the natural divisions—first, in the points of separation of the systems along the sea coast (for here the county lines have been very wisely chosen), and second, in the secondary division of the large St. John system. The geology also, in doubtful cases, may be called to aid. Taking into account all of these factors, the river system districts of New Brunswick would appear to be as follows, and as traced on the accompanying map. Natural divisions should obviously be known by indigenous names, for which, happily, convenient Indian names are available.

- I. *The Passamaquoddy (or Charlotte) District.* Includes the basins of all rivers from the Cobscook to Point Lepreau.
- II. *The Woolastook (or St. John) District.* Includes the entire St. John System and the smaller rivers from Point Lepreau to Martins Head.

* That river systems and counties do not correspond yet more closely is due to three causes:—First, county lines are, for convenience of running and marking, best made straight, while watersheds are crooked; second, the geography of the province was imperfectly known when some of the lines were established by law, and hence they do not run as it was supposed they would; third, some of our rivers run so far across the province and head so near the basins of others, it is practically more convenient to allow their heads to fall into other counties. Such is the case with the St. Croix and Magaguadavic, Washademoak and Salmon River, Miramichi, and Restigouche.