CIHM Microfiche Series (Monographs) ICMH Collection de microfiches (monographies)



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques



## Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming are checked below. L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

| Л            | Coloured covers /                                   | Coloured pages / Pages de couleur   |
|--------------|---|---|
|              | Couverture de couleur                               | Pages damaged / Pages endommagées   |
|              | Covers damaged /                                    | r ages damaged / r ages endommagees   |
|              | Couverture endommagée                               | Pages restored and/or laminated /<br>Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées         |
|              | Covers restored and/or laminated /                  |   |
|              | Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée               | Pages discoloured, stained or foxed /<br>Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées |
|              | Cover title missing / Le titre de couverture manque | Pages detached / Pages détachées  |
| $\checkmark$ | Coloured maps / Cartes géographiques en couleur     |   |
|              |   | Showthrough / Transparence  |
|              | Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black) /      |   |
|              | Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)    | Quality of print varies /   |
|              |   | Qualité inégale de l'impression   |
| $\checkmark$ | Coloured plates and/or illustrations /              | <br>Includes an elementary state of the   |
|              | Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur             | Includes supplementary material /   |
|              | Bound with other meterial /                         | Comprend du materiel supplementaire   |
|              | Bolió avec d'autres decuments                       | Pages whally or partially showred by arrest align                               |
|              | nelle avec d'autres documents                       | tissues ate have been refilmed to ensure the best                               |
|              | Only edition available /                            | nossible image / Les pages totalement ou  |
|              | Seule édition disponible                            | nartiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata une                           |
|              |   | pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de facon à                              |
|              | Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along | obtenir la meilleure image possible.  |
|              | interior margin / La reliure serrée peut causer de  |   |
|              | l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge     | Opposing pages with varying colouration or                                      |
|              | intérieure.   | discolourations are filmed twice to ensure the best                             |
|              |   | possible image / Les pages s'opposant ayant des                                 |
|              | Blank leaves added during restorations may appear   | colorations variables ou des décolorations sont                                 |
|              | within the text. Whenever possible, these have been | tilmees deux tois afin d'obtenir la meilleure image                             |
|              | blanches, siguitées, lors, d'une, restauration      | possible.   |
|              | annaraissant dans le texte mais lorsque cela était  |   |
|              | possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées           |   |
|              | possible, des pages il olir pas els littless.       |   |
|              | Additional comments /                               |   |
|              | Commentaires supplémentaires:                       |   |

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below / Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.



The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

National Library of Canada

The imegas eppearing hara are the bast quelity possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers ara filmad beginning with the front cover and anding on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover whan eppropriets. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or Illustrated Impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The lest recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol — (meaning "CON-TINUED"), or the symbol  $\nabla$  (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entiraly included in one exposure are filmed baginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrete the mathod: L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grêce à la générosité de:

Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la nattaté da l'axamplaire filmé, et en conformité avec las conditions du contrat da filmega.

Las exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminent soit par la dernière pege qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plet, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminent par le dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symbolas suivants apparaîtra sur la darnière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole → signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbola ♥ signifia "FIN".

Las certes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque la document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angla supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de heut en bas, en prenent le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diegrammas suivants illustrant la méthoda.





| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 |



A RECEIPTION OF

(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)



APPLIED IMAGE Inc

1653 East Moin Street Rochester, New York 14609 USA (716) 482 - 0300 - Phone (716) 288 - 5989 - Fax

1.

100-1000000

## Canada Department of Mines

Hon. LOUIS CODERRE, Minister; R. G. McCONNELL, Deputy Minister.

Geological Survey

# Museum Bulletin No. 18

GEOLOGICAL SERIES, No. 28.

JULY 23, 1915

## STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF THE PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALEOZOIC ROCKS NORTH OF THE OTTAWA AND ST. LAWRENCE VALLEYS

by

E. M. Kindle and L. D. Burling

OTTAWA Government Printing Bureau 1915

No. 1558





#### MUSLUM BELLLIN NO. 18.

PENIE L



- A. Laurentian escarpment south of Kings mountain, Que.
- B. Lowland plain north of Quyon, Que., with Laurentian Plateau escarpment in the distance.
- C. Laurentian Plateau escarpment north of Breckenridge, Que.

## CONTENTS.

|                                    | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Introduction                       | 1    |
| General stratigraphic relations    | 2    |
| The Pre-Cambrian surface           | 4    |
| Structure of the Palæozoic plain   | . 8  |
| The Laurentian Plateau escarpment. | . 12 |
| Interpretation of the data         | 13   |
| Former extent of the Palaozoic     | 19   |
| Summary                            | . 22 |

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

| Plate I. | . A | . Laurentian escarpment south of Kings moun-     |     |
|----------|-----|--|-----|
|          |     | tain, Que Frontispi                              | ece |
|          | E   | B. Lowland plain north of Quyon, Que., with      |     |
|          |     | Laurentian Plateau escarpment in the distance    | 4.6 |
|          | C   | . Laurentian Plateau escarpment north of         |     |
|          |     | Breckenridge, Que.                               |     |
| II.      | . A | A. Contact of granite and Ordovician limestone   |     |
|          |     | at Kingston Mills, Ont                           | 4   |
|          | E   | B. Granite boulder at base of Trenton limestone  |     |
|          |     | at Pont Rouge, Que                               | - 4 |
|          |     |  |     |
| Figure   | Ţ   | lscarpment topography east of Montebello, Que.   | 2   |
|          | 4   | Suthine map of the Ottawa district, showing      | 10  |
|          | 1   | principal faults and lines of cross-sections     | 10  |
|          | 3.  | Cross-section from Kings mountain, through       |     |
|          |     | Aylmer, Que                                      | 12  |
| ••       | 4.  | Cross-section to Vars, Ont., from the Laurentian |     |
|          |     | plateau near Montebello, Que                     | 12  |
| b 4      | 5.  | C'retch map showing location of Laurentian       |     |
|          |     | holl section                                     | 12  |
|          |     | Den- section                                     | 12  |

₩,

rp-

|           | Р.  | GE |
|-----------|---|----|
| Figure 6. | Cross-section from the Laurentian plateau to<br>Lake Erie at St. Thomas, Ont. The line of |    |
|           | section in the Ontario peninsula is about<br>normal to the strike                         | 18 |

ii

July 23, 1915.

## Canada

# Geological Survey Museum Bulletin No. 18.

GEOLOGICAL SERIES, No. 28.

Structural Relations of the Pre-Cambrian and Palæozoic Rocks North the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valleys.

By E. M. KINDLE AND L. D. BURLING.

#### INTRODUCTION.

Eastern Canada affords no more striking physiographic feature than the scarp-like southern face of the Laurentian plateau. This northern rim of crystalline rocks rises generally from 700 to 1,000 feet above the broad, comparatively flat plain of Paleozoic rocks and marks their nort' rn limit for 300 miles along the north side of the Ottawa St. Lawrence valleys (Figure 1). This upland is a large une 1 plateau with hummocky surface and forms part of the great expanse of Pre-Cambrian rocks to which the term Canadian shield1 or Northern Protaxis has been applied. The Canadian shield has an area of about 2,000,000 square miles and an average elevation of about 1,500 feet above sea-level.<sup>2</sup> The contact between this plateau of Pre-Cambrian rocks and the plain of Palæozoic rocks forms generally a series of nearly straight or gently curving lines.

AGE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Suess, The Face of the Earth, vol. II, 1906, p. 30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Frank D. Adams, Problems of American Geology, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Conn., 1915, p. 47.

#### MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.

The geologic significance of a physiographic feature having so great an areal extent as this is of great interest. It has been generally regarded as part of the southern shore-line of the Pre-Cambrian nucleus of the American continent. Another interpretation of the meaning of this feature was first suggested to the authors by a cross-section of the rocks from Ottawa to Lake Erie, prepared by the junior author. The senior author has undertaken by field studies along the northern border of the Palæozoics to secure evidence bearing upon the several hypotheses which have been considered in attempting to explain the relations which subsist between the Palæozoic lowland and the Pre-Cambrian upland. The topographic contrasts shown by these two physiographic types are indicated in Plate I.

Three hypotheses appear to merit consideration in any attempt to ascertain the relations which the Palæozoic and Pre-Cambrian rocks bear to each other along the southern face of the Laurentian plateau. These are: (1) synclinal structure of the area adjacent to the southern border of the Laurentian plateau; (2) pre-Palæozoic development of the Laurentian escarpment, and (3) subsidence or normal faulting of post-Ordovician age. The evidence for and against these several hypotheses can be more clearly presented and understood after a brief consideration of the stratigraphic relations of the Pre-Cambrian and Palæozoic formations and of the known structural features of the latter.

#### GENERAL STRATIGRAPHIC RELATIONS.

The Palæozoic rocks south of the Ottawa river rest upon a series of Pre-Cambrian rocks from which they are separated by a great unconformity. The older series includes a wide range of types of crystalline intrusive rocks intimately associated with ancient sediments which have been subjected to intense metamorphism. The character of these Pre-Cambrian rocks is well shown both in the region immediately north of the Ottawa river and in the crystalline area to the southwee<sup>+</sup> of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Palæozoic area. In the latter region Adams and Barlow report an enormous thickness for the Archæan rocks.

ving been the ther ested a to thor er of veral plain and own any Prece of re of itia**n** itia**n** postveral after Pre-

on a rated wide iated tense rocks tawa awaand ocks.

truc-



To accompany Bulletin by EMKindle and LD.Burling



#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALEOZOIC.

3

3

The Hastings Road section, according to these geologists, shows a thickness for the Grenville series of 9,440 feet or 1.788 miles.<sup>1</sup> In some areas the intrusive element of the Archæan, represented chiefly by great granite batholiths, predominates, while in others interbedded limestone and other sediments of highly altered character are comparatively free from igneous intrusions. In the Burleigh-Chandos section of the Haliburton and Bancroft areas, there is 8,350 feet of limestone out of a total of 1 - 24feet.<sup>2</sup> This great series of Pre-Cambrian sediments shows, nearly everywhere, highly inclined beds which seldom have dips of less than 45 degrees. Upon the truncated and profoundly eroded edges of these ancient and highly altered sediments the Palæozoic beds rest with approximate horizontality.

The basal beds of the Palaeozoic series begin with different members in different parts of the Palæozoic areas. Throughout much, but not all, of the Palæozoic area, the Potsdam sandstone forms the base of a Palæozoic section which comprises sandstone, shale, and limestone. The Potsdam is unknown above Quyon on the Ottawa river and appears to be absent west of Kingston. East of Quebec the Potsdam is absent and the section begins with a later horizon of the Trenton than occurs farther west. The Palæozoic section appears to reach its maximum thickness south of Montreal where deep wells have penetrated the Palæozoic to a depth of 2,400 feet without reaching the base of the series. In the Ottawa valley the Palæozoic section apparently attains its maximum thickness a few miles southeast of Ottawa where the beds have a total thickness of more than 2,000 feet. The Ottawa well section (Somerset street) shows that 1,276 feet of this thickness is below the top of the Trenton. The Queenston red shale ("Lower Medina") is the youngest formation to escape complete denudation, if we except the unique remnant of Devonian beds at Montreal. The Queenston shale is represented by small remnants in the Ottawa district and in the St. Lawrence valley northeast of Montreal. The Nicolet River section, together with the record of deep wells near St. Hyacinthe, shows the Queenston red shale northeast of Montreal to have a thickness of 1,000 feet or more.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Adams and Barlow, Geol. Surv., Canada, Mem. No. 6, 1910, p. 33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Idem, p. 35.

#### MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.

A remnant of this formation about 75 feet thick, southeast of Ottawa, has escaped complete denudation owing to its occurrence along the lower margin of a slightly tilted fault block. This Ottawa remnant of the Queenston is about equally distant from the outlier northeast of Montreal and the main mass of the formation on the south side of Lake Ontario. Both of these outliers. which have been preserved from erosion through fortuitous structural features, were doubtless originally portions of an uninterrupted extent of the Queenston shale across southeastern Ontario to the Nicolet River district in Quebec. In both New York and Quebec this formation approximates a thickness of 1,000 feet, and it is probable that it was originally represented by a comparable thickness over much of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys where it is now entirely absent.

Concerning the former extent of the rocks of the Silurian system over this region nothing is known. The Devonian, however, is known to have been present in the Montreal district and it is quite possible that the whole Palæozoic section from the Potsdam to the Devonian was present over a considerable part of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys.

#### THE PRE-CAMBRIAN SURFACE.

The hummocky or roches moutonnées character which so generally characterizes the Pre-Cambrian rocks was at one time usually ascribed to ice erosion. Laflamme was one of the first to note that in at least one district near Lake St. John "these depressions must necessarily have existed at the bottom of the Palæozoic ocean when the limestone beds were being deposited."1 Lawson, a few years later, showed clearly that both the Palæozoic and Animikie rested on a highly irregular Archæan surface.<sup>2</sup> All recent observers appear to agree that the old Pre-Cambrian land surface which the Cambrian sea invaded presented topographic features essentially similar to those now found in the Laurentian areas of southern Ontario which have been recently denuded of their Palæozoic cover. Prof. Cushing, in discussing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Geol. Surv., Canada, Rept. Prog. for 1882, 3, 4, Pt. D. <sup>2</sup> Bull. Geol. Soc. America, Vol. I, 1890, pp. 163-173.

MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.



PLATE II.

A. Contact of granite and Ordovician limestone at Kingston Mills, Ont.



B. Granite boulder at base of Trenton limestone at Pont Rouge, Que.

ast of rrence This from ormatitliers, uitous an unastern New less of ted by Law-

ilurian vonian, listrict om the le part

nich so he time first to ese deof the sited."<sup>1</sup> Palæourface.<sup>2</sup> mbrian d topoin the ecently ccussing



#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALÆOZOIC.

the Thousand Island topography of the St. Lawrence, states that "The evidence is abundant, clear, and convincing that the Pre-Cambrian surface underneath the sandstone is precisely like that where the sandstone is absent, and that the present topography of the Pre-Cambric areas is that resulting from recent stripping away of the sandstone; in other words, that it is the reappearance at the surface of a topography of tremendous antiquity" . . . . "The relief of the Pre-Cambric surface under the Potsdam is much the same in character here as elsewhere along the northern and eastern borders of the Adirondacks, but is apparently less in amount than it is farther east, where there are differences in level of three or four hundred feet at least.

"Where the Potsdam has been removed the Pre-Cambric surface disclosed is one of low ridges and valleys, with general northeast-southwest trend. The ridges are low with hummocky surface, and the valleys broad and shallow and developed on the weak rocks. . . . . The extreme of relief does not much exceed 100 feet and is generally less."1

In central Ontario, Wilson concludes that the Palæozoic sedim its "were laid down upon an uneven floor essentially the same as that presented at the present day by the Laurentian areas"<sup>2</sup> adjacent to the borders of the Cambrian and Ordovician rocks.

Adams and Barlow describe the character of the topography and its relation to the structure in one of the areas adjacent to the Palæozoic included in the Haliburton sheet, as follows:

"A glance at the Haliburton sheet will show the remarkable influence which the strike of lock underlying the area has had upon the distribution and position of the lakes and upo the courses of the streams. In the southern portion of the area use follow very closely the course of the bands of Grenville limestone, while in the granitic region of the north they form a delicately etched pattern on the surface of the great plain of granitic gneiss, occupying shallow depressions whose course is determined chiefly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> H. P. Cushing, Geology of the Thousand Islands Region, Bull. N. Y. State Mus., No. 145, 1910, pp. 55, 60.
<sup>2</sup> A. W. G. Wilson, Trans. Can. Inst., Vol. VII, 1904, p. 153.

#### MUSEUM BUILETIN NO. 18.

by the strike of the country rock; and even when the lake runs across the strike, the long arms and bays in its deeply indented shore line will be found to follow the directions of the foliation."

The testimony of Foerste indicates that the rugged Pre-Cambrian topography of southeastern Ontario persisted as far west at least as the Georgian Bay district. He states<sup>2</sup> that at Granite island "residual masses of Lowville are preserved in pockets worn out of the granite in times preceding the Lowville deposition. The former topography, therefore, in Pre-Cambrian times must have been that of a series of parallel ridges, consisting chiefly of quartzite, but including also other rocks. The general trend of these ridges was either west or south of west. The general dip of these ridges at present is toward the west, so that the crests go below water level in that direction, and this may have been the direction of their dip also in early Palæozoic times. Later these ridges were lowered below sea-level. The earliest deposition so far recorded in this area belongs to the lower Lowville. The northern ridges may have been entirely covered before the close of the Trenton, but some of the most southerr ridges, in the vicinity of Sheguindah, apparently were not entirely below water level before the deposition of the Collingwood.' Erosion has completely removed the Palæozoic rocks over a considerable area north of the head of the St. Lawrence river On the borders of this area remnants of the Palæozoics afford evidence of the highly irregular and hilly character of the surfac on which the earliest Palæozoic rocks of the region were laid down

Perhaps no area affords clearer evidence of the character of the Pre-Cambrian relief than the Kingston district. For Henry hill, a promontory rising about 100 feet above the St Lawrence river, just east of Kingston, may be cited as an example of the hilly character of the Pre-Cambrian topography in Ontarice This is a granite hill with a thin veneer of Ordovician limeston which has been almost entirely removed from the eastern side A remnant of the limestone is still to be seen, however, at wate level at the head of the bay on the east side of the hill and another patch is preserved at a higher level on the same side where the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Intern. Geol. Cong., Geol. Surv., Canada, Guide Book No. 2, 1913, p. 1. <sup>2</sup> Manuscript.

#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALEOZOIC.

7

slope of the hill is very steep. The exposed crest of the ridge is granite, but patches of limestone overlie the granite a very few feet below the highest point. On the west slope most of the limestone cover remains, the beds nearest the granite often adjusting themselves to its slope. At Kingston Mills, 5 miles northeast of Kingston, a railway cut just west of the canal affords an excellent exposure of the contact between the Ordovician limestone and the Archæan. The steep slope of the Pre-Cambrian hill surface exposed in this cut is shown in Plate II, A. There is no residuary clay between the Archæan and the Palæozoic, but the limestone at the contact includes coarse angular sand and gravel of quartz and feldspar, and boulders of granite similar to the one exposed on the north side of the cut at Kingston Mills are of frequent occurrence. The largest of these boulders which has been observed occurs in the bacal beds of the Trenton in the Jacques Cartier river at Pont Rouge, Quebec. It has a maximum length of 8 feet 4 inches and rises 2 feet above the partially enclosing horizontal limestone strata (Plate II, B), which dip away at angles of from 15 to 20 degrees in the immediate vicinity of the boulder. The fresh character of the Pre-Cambrian surface and the absence of residuary clays at its contact with the overlying Palæozoic are in marked contrast to the conditions reported in Wisconsin where deposits of clay 10 to 20 feet thick and consisting of decomposed Pre-Cambrian rocks separate the Cambrian from the Pre-Cambrian.<sup>1</sup>

Throughout a considerable area of the Pre-Cambrian rocks northwest of the head of the St. Lawrence the orientation of the lakes and streams conforms largely to the strike of the highly inclined Archæan rocks. The strike valleys are doubtless chiefly the product of Pre-Cambrian erosion in beds of softer schists or zones of interbedded crystalline limestone, although they are now partially filled by drift and may have been somewhat modified by glacial action.

The foregoing summary of the observations and opinions of various geologists regarding the character of Pre-Cambrian topography in Ontario indicates that the transgressing seas of

ke runs idented ation.''' ed Prel as far that at rved in Lowville ambrian nsisting e general st. The , so that his may ic times. earliest ver Lowcovered southern t entirely igwood." s over a ice river. cs afford e surface id down. racter of ct. Fort e the St. ı example Dintario. limestone tern side. at water d anothe**r** where the

1913, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> S. Weidman, Jour. Geol., Vol. XI, 1903, p. 311.

#### MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.

Cambrian time enveloped an Archæan land surface of highly irregular character but of moderate relief. It is probable that the higher hills of that topography seldom rose more than 300 or 400 feet above their adjacent valleys. The section (Figure 6), from the Ottawa river to Lake Erie across the Ontario peninsula, indicates clearly the entire absence of any discordance in the general profile of the pre-Palæozoic surface in that region, and there is no evidence of the existence elsewhere in the Pre-Cambrian topography of any marked or abrupt changes in the general level of the land such as that marked by the southern escarpment of the Laurentian plateau. The irregularly etched surface of the old Pre-Cambrian land, therefore, affords no explanation of so unique a topographic feature; and this discrepancy is all the more apparent when we realize that this escarp ment abruptly truncates the regularly oriented structural fea tures of the region (see page 12).

## STRUCTURE OF THE PALÆOZOIC PLAIN.

The great expanse of Palæozoic lowland which borders th Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys for 200 miles is separated from the Palæozoic area of the Ontario peninsula by a belt of Pre-Carr brian rocks, very narrow at the head of the St. Lawrence bu widening rapidly to the northwest. This area of Archæan rock emerges like an island from the low-lying Palæozoic cover to th east and to the southwest, a relationship which is clearly show by the cross-section, Figure 6. That this shield-like uplift too place subsequent to the time of Ordovician sedimentation indicated by outliers of the Ordovician such as that at Clea lake.1 This outlier rests upon the Pre-Cambrian at an elevation about 830 feet A.T., while on either margin c the Archæan shie sediments of the same age are found at elevations of 100 or 200 A.1 and these pass below sea-level toward the southwest, east, and northeast. On the east, owing chiefly to faulting, the elevation of these beds varies widely in different places; but to the sout west they decline, along the line of section (Figure 6), at a un form rate of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet per mile until, at Toronto, the base of t

<sup>1</sup> Ann. Rept. Geol. Surv., Canada, Vol. XIV, 1904, p. 7J.

#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALÆOZOIC.

9

Trenton lies nearly 1,000 feet below sea-level. This gives a difference in the present altitude of the base of the Ordovician rocks at Clear lake and Toronto amounting to about 1,800 feet. If the Ontario Archæan shield, extending from the Lake Nipissing district to the head of the St. Lawrence, antedates Palæozoic sedimentation in origin the remnants of these sediments now found near its centre mould be of much later age than those which lie around its margin; but, as shown by the Clear Lake cutlier, this is not the case. The only inference which can be drawn from the known facts of areal distribution and age of the sediments in this region is that the Nipissing-Kingston uplift is of late Palæozoic or Post-Palæozoic origin.

The Palæozoic plain of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys lies between the Laurentian plateau on the north and the Adirondack uplift on the south, and extends eastward from the Archæan shield at the head of the St. Lawrence to the zone of Appalachian folding east and southeast of Montreal.

The Palæozoic sediments which underlie the surface of this plain over a considerable part of the area have a thickness of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet, a section which probably represents on y a fraction of the original thickness of the Palaozoic. Indeed, the remnant of Devonian rocks at Montreal<sup>1</sup> and various outliers of the Palæozoic furnish conclusive evidence of this fact.

Subsidence or normal faulting is a structural characteristic of the Palæozoic rocks throughout the northern part of this lowland. Numerous faults, of which the one at Montmorency falls with a throw of 600 feet<sup>2</sup> is an example, are present in the eastern part of the region. In the Ottawa valley the sedimentary rocks are cut by numerous faults, many of which have been described by Ells<sup>3</sup> and shown on maps of the Geological Survey, Canada. Various other faults, some of which have considerable lateral extent, are known to the writers, and many minor faults are

highly ble that han 300 (Figure Ontario ordance t region, the Pres in the southern y etched s no exdiscreps escarpural fea-

rders the ated from Pre-Camrence but ean rocks ver to the rly shown plift took ntation is at Clear elevation æan shield · 200 A.T., east, and e elevation the south-, at a unibase of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Harvie: Canada, Roy. Soc., Proc. and Trans., 3d. ser., Vol. 3, sec. 4, pp. 249-299, 14 pls., 3 figs. 1910. <sup>2</sup> Raymond; Int. Geol. Cong., Geol. Surv., Canada, Guide Book No. 1,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>13, p. 40. <sup>3</sup> The physical features and geology of the Palæozoic basin between the Lower Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers, R. W. Ells, Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, Vol. 6, Sec. 4, pp. 99-120, 1900.

#### MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.

doubtless concealed by the heavy mantle of drift and marine clays which covers the buried channel of the Ottawa river to a depth of 100 to 200 feet.<sup>1</sup> Nine faults are shown on the Ottawa sheet alone, which includes a Palæozoic area about 16 by 22 miles in extent. The position of some of these faults and the location of the cross-sections which have been drawn are indicated in Figure 2. The largest of these is the Hull and Gloucester fault which has a maximum throw of about 1,850 feet.<sup>2</sup> This fault is the major structural feature of the Palaozoic area south of the Ottawa river and can be traced for a number of miles east of Ottawa. Two other faults lying between this fault and the Ottawa river have throws which approximate 250 and 350 feet respectively. The structural relations of these fault to each other and to the Palæozoic rocks east of Ottawa are shown in the cross-section, Figure 4. It is due chiefly to th Hull and Gloucester fault that the Queenston has been dropped sufficiently low for a remnant of it to be preserved from erosio: in the vicinity of Vars, a few miles southeast of Ottawa. Anothe south from Kings mountain across the Ottawn valley west of Ottawa. In the vicinity of the faults the strata nearly every where show strong dips, which, however, die out a short distance from the fractures. Elsewhere, as far east as the zone of Appalachian folding, the strata approach general horizontality The numerous faults which cut the Palæozoic beds of the Ottaw and St. Lawrence Valley province distinguish it structural from the Palæozoics of the Ontario peninsula. In the latte district no faults of note are known and the beds show a ver gentle monoclinal dip to the southwest. The cross-section (Figure 6) which extends from the shore of Lake Erie south St. Thomas to the Laurentian plateau east of Ottawa brin out clearly the fact that the Ottawa River valley lies in a zon of faulting, while the area to the southwest of the Kingston ar Lake Nipissing Archæan shield is free from faults. The prof of this section was compiled from the topographic maps of t Militia Department and from railway surveys. The geolog

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Idem, p. 105. <sup>2</sup> R. W. Ells, Geol. Surv., Canada, map sheet 120.

marine ver to a Ottawa 22 miles location cated in ter fault his fault a south of miles his fault 250 and se faults tawa are y to the dropped n erosion Another "unning west of ly everydistance zone of zontality. e Ottawa ructurally the latter w a very ss-section e south of wa brings in a zone gston and The profile aps of the e geology



10 december + but at 1.

- - -



#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PAL-EOZOIC.

11

east of the central Pre-Cambrian area was derived in part from the Ottawa and Cornwall (No. 120) and the Grenville (No. 121) sheets of the Geological Survey, Canada, and in part from new field observations. Southwest of this central Pre-Cambrian area the geology was derived from well records.1

The vertical scale of the cross-section is such as to greatly magnify the dips. The extent of the exaggeration is indicated by the statement that the dip west of the central Pre-Cambrian area is only  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet to the mile. The more northerly and northeasterly province cut by this section clearly represents a zone in which faulting is the most striking and characteristic structural feature, while the more southerly province lies outside this zone.<sup>2</sup> It must be noted, too, that the faulting of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence plain is localized and apparently confined chielly to its northern portion. This fact was pointed out by Ells, who, in speaking of the belt of Palæozoics bordering the St. Lawrence

-

Swansea: Brumell, loc. cit., p. 25Q. Mimico: Brumell, loc. cit., p. 26Q. New Toronto: Ingall, Ann. Rept. Geol. Surv., Canada, Vol. VI, 1895, p. 109S.

Clarkson: Files of Water and Borings Division, Geol. Surv., Canada.

Hamilton: Coste, 15th Rept. Bur. Mines, Ontario, 1906, p. 112.

Dundas: Brumell, loc. cit., p. 31 ).

Brantford: Coste, loc. cit., p. 112. Beachville: Files of Water and Borings Division, Geol. Surv., Canada. St. Thomas: Depth only record available.

<sup>2</sup> It may be noted here that Wilmott (Jour. Geol., vol. XI, 1900, pp. 40, 42) has inferred the existence of a fault extending from the southeastern border of the Adirondacks to the northern end of Lake Nipigon. Since, however, the author of this paper disclaims personal familiarity with the south-eastern part of the region traversed by this fault and presents no specific evidence for its existence in the district northwest of the head of the St. Lawrence, the only part of its course with which we might be concerned in this paper, it has not seemed advisable to include it in the present discussion. In this region the field evidence seems to be decidedly against the existence of such a fault. For a discussion of the effect of local faulting around the eastern borders of the Adirondack region the reader is referred to papers by Prof. J. F. Kemp and Prof. W. M. Davis (Popular Sci. Monthly, Mar. 1906; Science, vol. XXIII, 1906, pp. 630-632.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Well records used were derived from the following sources, the authors being indebted to Mr. Wyatt Malcolm of the Geological Survey for the use of his manuscript compilation of the well records of Outario and Quebec:

Whitby: Brumell, Ann. Rept. Geol. Surv., Canada, Vol. V, 1893, p. 24Q. Highland Creek: Brumell, loc. cit., p. 24Q.

Figniand Creek: brunell, ior. (R., p. 279).
York township, lot 11, con. H1: Ingall, Ann. Rept. Geol. Surv., Canada, Vol. V, 1893, p. 107 SS.
Toronto: Brunell, loc. cit., p. 250.

#### MUUSEM BULLETIN NO. 18.

east of Brockville, states that "if faults exist in the district their extent must be quite limited......"

#### THE LAURENTIAN PLATEAU ESCARPMENT.

The general topographic relations of the Palæozoic and Archæan areas are those of a lowland lying at an average elevation of about 1,000 feet below an adjacent plateau whose surface is irregular, but whose sky-line is, in places at least, exceedingly even (see Plate I, C). Northwest of Montreal, the surface of the Laurentian plateau is estimated by Adams<sup>2</sup> to have an average elevation of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet, the adjacent lowland standing 100 to 300 feet above tide. North of Quebec the summit of Roundtop, which marks the southern border of the plateau in that vicinity, attains an elevation of 1,600 feet (barometer). Near Ottawa, Kings mountain rises just north of the scarp to an elevation of 1,220 feet, the lowland to the s a having an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet. Many points on the plateau a few miles north of its southern border attain somewhat greater elevations. In the region north of Ottawa the elevation of the plateau at the Hudson Bay divide only slightly exceeds that of the higher points like Kings mountain near the escarpment. The height of the divide itself, over the area covered by Wilson's<sup>3</sup> map, generally lies between 1,000 and 1,400 feet. Farther east the plateau is somewhat higher. One of the highest points in this more easterly region is Trembling mountain, 2,380 feet, which is located about 35 miles north of the southern border of the plateau.

The small topographic map, Figure 1, represents an area in the lower Ottawa valley where the typical relations of the northern border of the Palæozoic lowland and the Laurentian plateau are shown. This representative bit of topography shows the almost perfectly flat Palaozoic plain meeting the steep scarp face of the southern margin of the Laurentian plateau in a nearly straight line. Along portions of the escarpment the con-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, vol. 6, sec. 4, 1900, p. 118.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ann. Rept. Geol. Surv., Canada, new ser., Vol. VIII, 1894 (1897), p. 8J. <sup>3</sup> Geol. Surv., Canada, Mem. 4, 1910.

Figure 3. Sna laver 1000 feet NOO Teer ct -North WSamy Total Tossilia diff. nd a-ur-d-ce an w-ce of et h a ts in he ead ne ng of Gross section from Kings Mountain through Aylmer, Quebec 1 41.10 × Trenton ... Prestambusio Polsdam Rechantonic Taris Allach Presi Jamit Noricantal Scale IS DESENT BINES KENINAN CEEUG ILAUY ł ł in au he ap a on-sJ. SJOUJOJ UOSOJET Keniney Keniney G E & COMPAN BUILDEN DE Sure) Canada South











#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALEOZOIC.

13

tact of the older and younger series of rocks is marked by terraces of marine clays which in some degree conceal the abrupt transition from a plain to a plateau scarp. At some points offset faults to the north or south appear to have interrupted the continuity of the scarp. A combination of these two features in the district immediately north and northeast of Ottawa obscures the abrupt and generally observable contact of the two topographic types. Northwest of the lower Gatineau valley the Laurentian escarpment continues uninterruptedly for nearly 20 miles, rising 800 to 1,000 feet above the lowland at its base. The irregular character of the Pre-Cambrian topography has already been pointed out (pages 4-8). Denudation of the Palæozoic rocks has uncovered this ancient hilly topography in many places along the northern border of the present Palæozoic plain, so that the Palæozoic plain is sometimes separated from the base of the plateau by a border of irregular Archæan hills. These hills of granite and schist occasionally have an elevation of 200 or 300 hundred feet, although generally less, above the adjacent Palæozoic rocks. Where hills of this type are present the south-facing escarpment of the Laurentian plateau may be obscured, but its position is generally easily recognized by a pronounced change in the relief.

#### INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA.

In the preceding pages we have shown that the Laurentian plateau, for approximately 300 miles, rises abruptly several hundred feet above the Palæozoic pl un and that a zone in which faulting is the dominant structural feature borders this escarpment on the south. We will now consider the significance of this topographic discordance and of the associated structural features.

The possibility of synclinal structure affecting both the Palæozoic and Archæan series at once suggests itself, to one unfamiliar with the field relations, as an explanation of the Laurentian escarpment. When it is pointed out, however, that the older series has been highly folded and that the general trend of this folding is across the course of the escarpment

#### MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.

and in many cases at right angles to it, the improbability, if not impossibility, of this hypothesis becomes manifest. If synclinal structure were a competent explanation a consequent general southerly inclination of the beds north of the areas of maximum thickness would manifest itself in the numerous outcrops along the Ottawa river. In all of the outcrops known to the writers, however, the beds are horizontal or nearly so, except in the immediate vicinity of faults. In the section passing through Aylmer the general dip is even to the north. Near faults the dips, though often heavy for short distances, die out in a few yards or rods. Examination of the accompanying sections will show that most, if not all, of the declination of the beds is due to normal faults. The assumption of a synclinal trough structure could in no degree explain the scarp-like face which marks the southern border of the Laurentian plateau.

We may next consider the hypothesis of the development in pre-Palæozoic times of a Laurentian escarpment bordering the Palæozoic lowland. Such a feature cannot be assumed to be the possible product of folding or down-warping in Pre-Cambrian times, for, as noted above, the general strike of the crystalline rocks is everywhere transverse to the line of the scarp. Any trough-like structure which might have been developed through folding or the differential erosion of folded strata would have a northeast and southwest trend instead of the general east-west course of the northern border of the Palæozoic rocks. If pre-Palæozoic faulting is assumed to have produced the escarpment as the northern rim of a graben type of depression, as suggested by one author<sup>1</sup> for the Montreal district, it will be profitable to consider the conditions under which scarps may be developed in connexion with faults. In the southern Alleghanies, faults with throws of from 5,000 to 8,000 feet cut the Palæozoics and are not betraved by the slightest physiographic evidence. The great faults in southwest Virginia may be cited as an illustration of the general principle that faults result in scarps only when beds of unequal hardness are exposed to erosion. If faulting had occurred in the Archæan rocks along the present

<sup>1</sup>A. W. G. Wilson, Jour. Geol., Vol. XI, 1903, p. 620.

#### STRUCTURAL RULATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PARTOZOTC

plateau border line before they received a cover of Palacozoic sediments the strata on either side would have been of precisely the same lithologic type and no surface feature in any way comparable with the present scarp could have resulted. Pre-Cambrian faulting, therefore, fails  $\uparrow\uparrow$  an explanatory hypothesis of the origin of the scarp.

f

f

t

f

S

n

١,

-

r

e

g

e

ł

e

t

g

0

-

e

١.

đ

5.

;--

s

e

e

<u>-</u>

e

С

d

n

1.

t

If, however, we assume that the transgressing Carabrian sea found no interrupting wall or line of cliffs where the southern margin of the plateau now stands, and that its sediments and those of succeeding Palaeozoic seas overspread the Archaean rocks of the present Laurentian plateau, then conditions were ideal for the production of an escarpment in the event of profound faulting followed by long continued denudation. Conspicuous physiographic evidence of such a fault would probably begin to appear only after erosion had removed the Palæozoic beds on both sides down to the level of the uppermost Archaean. After denudation had reached this level its progress would be immeasurably more rapid on the south or downthrow side. The major part of the beds to the south of the fault line being limestone, and to the north quartz and feldspar, their rate of degradation would be roughly proportional to the resistance to erosion and solution offered by limestone on the one hand and granite or, the other. The inevitable result of such differential erosion would be an escarpment of Archæan rocks, though this would be interrupted by irregularities in the original topography. Such irregularities are rather common along the southern front of the plateau just as they are in the more recently and less completely uncovered Pre-Cambrian topography of the region about the head of the St. Lawrence. Like the latter they doubtless in many cases represent inequalities in the Pre-Cambrian land surface and some of them probably represent minor faults transverse to the main line of faulting.

It will be seen from the foregoing considerations that, while Pre-Cambrian faulting would have been inadequate, normal faulting in the latter part of the Palaeozoic, or later, would have been entirely competent to produce this escarpment which the

MUSEUM BELLO TEN NO. 18.

authors consider to represent a fault line scarp.<sup>1</sup> Post-Cambrian faulting appears to be the only inference which accords fully with all the evidence. The escarpment is located along the northern border of a zone in which subsidence faulting is known to be a common and characteristic structural feature. The character of the topography along the southern border of the Canadian shield north of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa valleys is quite different in character from that along its western border. Along the shores and on the islands of the southern half of Lake Winnipeg the Palaeozoic and Archæan rocks approach each other rather closely for nearly a hundred miles, but the latter shows little if any greater relief than the former. Archæan rocks form the eastern and Palæozoic rocks the western shore of this long shallow lake throughout its entire length of Along the eastern border of Lake Winnipeg, the 250 miles. Archæan kenerally occurs in the form of low rounded knobs of granite, few of which rise more than 50 feet above the lake. At the north end of the lake the actual contact of the two systems is covered by drift, but the general level of the westernmost exposures of the Archæan, near Warrens Landing, is lower than that of the near-lying easternmost exposures of the Palæozoic. In the region still farther north and northwest, geologists familiar with the country report a similar absence of marked topographic discordance between the area- underlain by Palæozoic and Archæan rocks. Outside of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valley region any escarpment is apt to be on the Palæozoic side of the contact. The Archæan-Palæozoic contact, which extends west from Kingston to Georgian bay, shows the same topographic contrast with the Laurentian Plateau escarpment as the one just described between the latter and the western border of the Archæan. Here the uniform relations of Pre-Cambrian highland and Palaozoic lowland found north of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers are often reversed, for the Ordovician limestone frequently forms a more or less pronounced cliff overlooking a Pre-Cambrian area of less relief.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The reader is referred to a paper by Prof. W. M. Davis (Science, N. S., vol. XXVI, pp. 90-93, 1907) for a discussion of the terms fault scarp and tault line scarp.

#### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PALLOTORY.

This relationship of the two series of rocks occurs southeast of Madoc, where the Ordovician limestone on the south side of Moira lake forms an escarpment rising 150 feet above the lake and considerably higher than the granite area on the opposite Similar topographic relations between these two rock side. series exist northwest of Madoc and west of Belmont lake where the retreat of the Ordovician limestone through denudation has left walls of cliffs standing higher than the adjacent Pre-Cambrian. These examples will suffice to show the markedly different types of topography which denudation has developed on very similar groups of rocks in areas which are geographically only slightly removed from each other. The differences are evidently to be explained by corresponding variations in the structure. The operation of ordinary processes of erosion alone will not explain the very different topographic features exhibited by the western and southeastern borders of the "Protaxis". The escarpment-like border shown by the Archæan in the latter region can only be explained on the assumption that denudation has there been aided by profound faulting.

Evidence which strongly corroborates, if it does not alone demonstrate, the validity of the inference of faulting, is furnished by the areal relations of the Paleozoic and Pre-Cambrian. The contact of these two rock series along the Ottawa River valley has been mapped by the Geological Survey, Canada, on a scale of 4 miles to 1 inch, and the contact is there shown, throughout its course, as a straight or gently curving line. The Archæan area is nowhere invaded by tongues or projecting angles of Palæozoic rocks such as would certainly be present if faulting had not substituted an approximately straight contact for the usual highly irregular contact resulting from the denudation of beds so unlike as the Archana and Palaozoic. The highly irregular type of contact which develops between these rock groups under normal conditions and in the absence of faulting is seen in the maps by Miller and Knight1 showing the Palæozoic-Archæan boundary in the region northwest of Kingston; but this irregular zigzag type of contact is unknown along the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rept. Ontario Bur. Mines, vol. XXII, pt. II, 1914.

#### MUSEUM BULLITIN NO. 18.

border of the Laurentian plateau. The senior author has examined several areas where stream valleys cross from the Archaean to the Palæozoic, in order to discover, if possible, a single case where the Palæozoic extends up a valley into the Archaean area; but no such case has been found and the contact appears to be everywhere a series of approximately straight or gently curving lines.

Another class of facts which may be considered in this connexion is the lithologic character of the limestones at or near their northern border. The Trenton limestone at Ottawa is a nearly pure limestone entirely free from sand, pebbles, or other detrital material which the granite hills rising a thousand feet above its border must have supplied to it if these hills formed the northern boundary of the Trenton sea. The freedom from detrital material of this and other limestones of the Ottawa section is one of many facts which indicate that the present topographic relations between the Palæozoic and Archæan series are the result of faulting subsequent to their formation. The position of the fault which is responsible for this topographic inequality is shown in Figure 5. It may be conveniently designated as the Laurentian Plateau fault, since it marks the southern margin of this upland throughout the area in which it impinges on the Palæozoic rocks. At Quebec, it approaches very near to the line of the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain fault, the two being almost parallel and lying only a few miles apart northeast of the city. The Laurentian Plateau fault is supposed to pass into the river below the Island of Orleans. North of the city of Ouebec the southern Lorder of the plateau is broken up by valleys into a series of more or less detached hills. Roundtop, which is representative of these, has an elevation of 1,600 feet (barometer). The Palæozoic plain has here a width of only 4 or 5 miles; Archaan hills 1,200 to 1,600 feet high limit the plain on the northwest, and a tableland comprised chiefly of the highly deformed Sillery beds borders it on the southeast. This plain rapidly widens in ascending the St. Lawrence valley above Quebec. Between Quebec and St. Anne river the line of the fault is believed to lie north of the margin of the Palæozoic, as shown on the map, at the foot of the line of high Archæan







ntal Scale 50 60 70 Miles



### STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMBRIAN AND PARLEOZOIC

19

hills. The two conspicuous tongues of Archæan which indent the Ordovician cast and west of Jacques Cartier river are very much lower than the main front of the Laurentian plateau and probably represent hills in the old Pre-Cambrian surface such as have been described in the first part of this paper. Similar granite hills which lie south of the line of fault are locally conspicnous in the Ottawa River valley above Quyon. The western extent of the fault is unknown. Neath and northwest of Chichester P.O., which is the most westerly point visited, the Laurentian plateau terminates in a scarp or line of hills which rises with about the same abruptness and relative elevation above the country to the south as in the lower Ottawa valley.

## FORMER EXTENT OF THE PALEOZOIC.

The interpretation of the relationship of the Palæozoic plain to the Laurentian plateau which has been set forth above is one which requires a very material alteration of the current view of the former extent of some of the Palacozoic rocks in the extensive region north of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers. The great V-shaped area of Archæan rocks, which embraces the Hudson Bay depression and exterds southward from the Arctic coast on the west and from northern Labrador os, the east to the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers and the upper Great Lakes, has long been considered to represent the approximate outlines of a Pre-Cambrian continent, which persisted through Palæozoic time. Dana, who appears to have been the original exponent of this conception of the Pre-Cambrian continent, gives his reason for believing that the lands of this area were above sea-level, in the following words: "They are concluded to have been thus dry because no marine beds cover them, while on either border marine beds (Silurian and later) commence and spread widely over the most of the continent."1 In view of the extensive denudation which most lands of the present are now known to have suffered, the mere absence of a formation or formations cannot be admitted as good evidence that they may not have been present at some earlier period. With few exception

<sup>4</sup> Dana, J. D., Manual of Geol., Rev. Ed., 1868, p. 136.

#### MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 18.

however, later writers on palæogeography have accepted and followed more or less closely Dana's delineation of the permanent character of the Azoic continent. A few geologists have not accepted this view. Lawson, after reviewing the available evidence, concludes that "the surface of the Archæan 'nucleus' was once very extensively if not wholly covered by Palæozoic sediments."1 Willis should also be noted as opposing it. He states, in speaking of the Archæan protaxis, that "It was submerged probably beneath the general Cambro-Ordovician transgression and certainly to a great extent beneath the Siluro-Devonian seas which spread over Arctic Lands."<sup>2</sup> Most of the maps of the Palæozoic seas make their shore-lines more or less coincident with the north side of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers. The recognition of the Laurentian escarpment as a fault plane, however, leaves no ground whatever for continuing to draw paleogeographic strand lines at or near this line. A diagrammatic restoration of the relations of the Archæan of the Laurentian plateau and the Palæozoic of the St. Lawrence lowland, which existed before faulting, will show that 2,000 to 4,000 feet of Palæozoic rocks overspread the southern border of the present Laurentian highland. Such a considerable thickness of sediments overlapping the Archæan points unmistakably to a very considerable extension, toward the north and beyond its present margin, of the seas of Palæozoic time.

A partial reconstruction of the Montreal section as it existed previous to the extensive denudation which has developed the Palaeozoic plain is highly instructive in this connexion. A remnant of horizontal Trenton limestone is preserved on the slopes of Mount Royal, the highest beds having an elevation of about 500 feet. The thickness of the Utica-Lorraine in the region adjacent, according to Adams and Leroy,<sup>4</sup> is about 2,300 feet. This is doubtless a conservative figure since Foerste, in the region to the northeast, gives these beds a considerably greater thick-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bull. Geol. Soc. America, Vol. I, 1890, p. 172.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A theory of continental structure applied to North America, Bull. Geol. Soc. America, Vol. 18, 1908, p. 394.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ann. Rept. Geol. Surv., Canada, new ser., vol. XIV, 1901, p. 270.

## STEECTURAL RELATIONS OF TRUCAMBRIAN AND TALLOZOR

ness. Well records in the St. Hyacinthe district show the Queenston to have a thickness of not less than 1,000 feet. The total thickness of beds lying above the Trenton in the Montreal section is, therefore, about 3,300 feet. These eds superimposed on the Trenton of the Mount Royal section would give a Paleozoic section rising 3,800 A.T. If for the moment we neglect the existence of the Laurentian Plateau fault and project this 3,300 feet of sediments on the section constructed by Adams and Leroy<sup>1</sup> the top of the Palaeozoic section at Montreal would stand more than 3,000 feet above the average elevation of the Laurentian plateau lying 25 miles northwest of Montreal, Thus the structural feature which constitutes the subject of this paper may be ignored without invalidating the conclusion that the nearly horizontal sediments of the Montreal region must have reached far to the north of the present Archaean border. The recognition of a great subsidence fault at the southern border of the Archæan, however, makes the conception of a limited northern extent for the Palæozoic still more improbable. The total thickness of the Palacozoic of the Momreal district, if we take the minimum figures of Adams and Leroy for the beds below the Utica-Lorraine, is about 5,025 feet. If the Lanrentian scarp is the result of late Paleozoic or Post-Palaeozoic faulting the sea floor of the early Palaeozoic was not interrupted by any inequality of grade near the present southern border of the Archæan. The old Pre-Cambrian land surface near Montreal must, therefore, have been depressed nearly a mile below sea-level in order to permit the accumulation of the 5,000 feet of Palaozoic. We must postulate as an accessory to this subsidence at Montreal a regional depression of the areas to the north which permitted the Ordovician sea to invade much if not all of the Archaean area north of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers. The elevation of the land near the divide between the Hudson Bay and the Ottawa-St. Lawrence drainage systems does not greatly exceed that of much of the southern part of the Laurentian plateau. East of Abitibi lake the highest

'Idea, sheet No. 874, 1905.

#### MUSEUM BULLUIN NO. 18.

points generally lie between 1,000 feet and 2,000 feet.<sup>1</sup> The present very moderate relief of the region near the Height of Land affords no reason for assuming that the seas of Ordovician time may not have extended to the Hudson Bay region. In this connexion the suggestion of Cushing,<sup>2</sup> that the Adiro dack mountains were possibly submerged at the close of Utica sedimentation, is worthy of consideration.

The occurrence of outliers of Palæozoic rocks, some of which are far within the limits of the Laurentian plateau, affords conclusive evidence of the former wide extent of some of the Palæozoic seas. These include the outliers at Echo lake, Lake Nipissing, and at Saguenay. These small areas of Palaozoic limestone may all belong to down-faulted blocks which have thus escaped erosion. They appear to have had an origin similar to the Wellsville outlier in the Adirondack region, which has been down-faulted more than 1,600 feet.<sup>3</sup> They serve effectively to support the evidence from other sources that the Palaozoic seas extended very widely if not completely over the Laurentian upland southeast and east of Hudson bay.

#### SUMMARY.

The Canadian shield or Laurentian plateau in the vicinity of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys rises abruptly from the comparatively level plain to the south. This physiographic feature of the Pre-Cambrian crystallines to which the term Laurentian Plateau escarpment is applied, makes a series of nearly straight or gently curving lines at its contact with the comparatively flat lying Palaozoic sediments to the south. It has been generally regarded as having formed the more or less permanent southern shore-line of the Pre-Cambrian nucleus of the American continent; but the authors believe that the sea floor of the early Palæozoic was there interrupted by little inequality of grade, and that the Palæozoic seas extended very

Wilson, M. E., Geol, Surv., Canada, Mem. 39, 1213.
 Wilson, W. J., Geol, Surv., Canada, Mem. 4, 1910.
 Bull, N. Y. State Mus., No. 145, 1910, p. 96.
 Miller, W. J., Bull, N. Y. State Mus., No. 164, 4913, p. 53.

## STRUCTURAL RELATIONS OF PRE-CAMERIAN AND PALEOZOIC. 23

widely, if not completely, over the Laurentian upland southeast and east of Hudson bay. The present boundary between this Laurentian upland and the Palæozoic lowland is believed to be the locus of a line of post-Ordovician normal faulting for which the term Laurentian Plateau fault is proposed. The existence of such a fault is supported by the following considerations: (a) the extreme regularity in the direction of the escarpment, (b) the abrupt truncation of the structural features of the Pre-Cambrian area by the escarpment, (c) the presence of outliers of the Ordovician upon the Pre-Cambrian, (d) the fact that the escarpment is located along the northern border of a zone in which subsidence or normal faulting is peculiarly characteristic, (e) the general horizontality of the Palæozoic beds in the area south of the escarpment, (f) the usual absence of physiographic evidence of faults unless they result in the differential erosion of beds of unequal resistance, (g) the discordance between the physiographic features along the escarpment and along other nearlying borders of the Archæan where normal erosion has even yielded an escarpment of the Palaeozoic, (h) the absence of Palaeozoic penetration into breaks in the escarpment, and (i) the entire absence of clastic material from the limestone immediately adjacent to the escarpment.





The first number of the Museum Bulletin was enriched, *Factoria Memorist* Museum Bulletin, Number 1.

3 3286 08934711 2

The following articles of the Geodogical Series of Museum Bulletins have been issued.

#### Geological Series.

- 1. The Trenton crinoid, Ottawacrinus, W. R. Billings: by L. A. Bather
- 2. Note on Merocrimus, Walcott, Jy 1. A. Bather ...
- The occurrence of Helodoni teeth at Roche Mictie and vacinity, Alberta, by L. M. Lambe.
- Notes on Cyclocystoides: by P. E. Raymond.
- Notes on some new and old Tribobites in the Victoria Memorial Museum; by P. E. Raymond.
- 6. Description of some new Asaphidae: by P. E. Raymond.
- 7. Two new species of Tetradium: by P. E. Raymond.
- Revision of the species which have been referred to use genus Bathymus (preliminary paper); by P. E. Raymond.
- 9. A new Brachiopo Efrom the base of the Utical AvA. L. Wilson.
- A new genus of dicotyledonous plant from the Tertiary of Kettle river, British Columbia; by W. J. Wilson.
- 11. A new species of Lepidostrobus: Ly W. J. Wilson.
- Prelnite from Adams sound, Admiralty inlet, Battin island, Franklin, by R. A. A. Johnston
- 13. The origin of granite (unicropegnatite) in the Purcell sills) by S. J. Schofield.
- 14. Columnar structure in limestone: by E. M. Kindle
- Supposed evidences of subsidence of the coast of New Brunswick within modern time: by J. W. Goldthwait.
- 16 The Pre-Cambrian Beltian) rocks of southcastern British Columbia and their correlation: by S. J. Schofield.
- Early Cambrian's ratigraphy in the North American Cordillera, with discussion of the Albertella and related faunas: by L. D. Burling.
- A preliminary study of the variations of the plications of Parastrophia hemiplicata, Hall: by A. E. Walson.
- 19. The Anticosti Island fannas; by W. H. Twenhotd,
- 20 The Crowsnest Volcanics: by J. D. Mackenzie, "
- 21. ABeatricea likeorganism from the additile Ordovician; by 19 E. Raymond,
- The Huronian formations of Analyzing region, Canada: by W. H. Collins.
- Physiography of the Beaverdell map-area and the somhern part of the Interior plateaus: by F. Reinecke.
- On Ecceratops canadensis, gan, roya, with remarks on other genera of Cretaceons horned divosants, by I. M. Lambe.
- The occurrence of glacial drift on the Magdalen islands: by J. W. Goldthwait.
- 26. Gay Gulch and Skookum meteorites: by R. A. A. Johnston.
- 27. The Ordovician Cacks of Lake Timiskaming: by M. Y. Williams.

