

North of lake Superior the later Precambrian rocks are represented by a group of nearly flat-lying sediments known as the Kaministiquian group. This group embraces the Animikie series of conglomerate, iron formation, and shale; the Sibley series of conglomerate, sandstone, limestone, and tuff; and the Osler series of lavas, conglomerate, sandstone and tuff.

In northwestern Manitoba the Precambrian formations are separated by an unconformity into an earlier Wekuskoan group of lavas and sediments and a later group of Missian sediments.

Strata, presumably of late Precambrian age, are known to occur on lake Athabaska, Great Slave lake, east of Great Bear lake, on Belcher islands, on the east of Hudson bay and at other points in the Ungava peninsula. In the southern part of Ungava peninsula sediments are found that bear a resemblance to the Grenville-Hastings group of southern Quebec and southeastern Ontario.

The Grenville-Hastings group consists of closely folded, highly altered sediments intruded by, and in places interleaved with, granite. They are in general rusty-weathering banded gneisses, quartzose gneisses grading into quartzites, crystalline limestones, amphibolites, pyroxene-rich rocks and volcanic schists. Pegmatite dykes are common and anorthosite occupies large areas. The Grenville-Hastings group forms a belt in the southern part of the Canadian Shield, extending east from Georgian bay. The formations have not as yet been indubitably correlated with the Keewatin and Huronian rocks to the north.

The Precambrian sediments have suffered intrusion at various times by granites. These have been unroofed at different stages in the history of the Precambrian, and pebbles of granite are found in the conglomerates as early as those of Keewatin age. So complete has been the unroofing of the granites that they are exposed over the greater portion of the Canadian Shield. Basic intrusives were common in later Precambrian times. Sills and dykes of diabase cut the late Precambrian sediments around lake Nipigon, to the west of lake Timiskaming and at many other points. A thick laccolith of norite and micropegmatite is found in the Sudbury district.

The Canadian Shield was intensely glaciated during Pleistocene times, with the exception of the more elevated parts of the northern Labrador coast, and in general only a scant amount of soil was left, sufficient partially to conceal the rocks and maintain a forest growth. In some areas, as in part of northern Ontario and Quebec, adjacent to the Canadian National Railway, stratified fine sediments were deposited in lakes formed in front of the retreating glacier.

The Precambrian formations are prolific of mineral deposits of great number, variety and extent. These latter occur generally at or near the contact of the intrusives and the intruded rocks. Among them are the gold deposits of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake, associated with intrusions of porphyry, the silver deposits of Cobalt, South Lorrain and Gowganda, associated with diabase sills, the enormous nickel-copper deposits of Sudbury, associated with norite of a thick laccolithic intrusion, the auriferous copper sulphides of western Quebec, the copper-zinc sulphides of Manitoba, and the iron ores and iron pyrites of many localities of Ontario; in the Grenville-Hastings area are found deposits of galena, mica, graphite, feldspar, magnesite, fluorite, kaolin, molybdenite, talc and apatite.

St. Lawrence Lowlands.—The St. Lawrence Lowlands are divided into two parts by an arm of the Laurentian Plateau that extends southward into New York State, crossing the St. Lawrence between Kingston and Brockville. They are