

underlain by nearly horizontal Palæozoic sediments dipping gently away from the Canadian Shield and resting on the sloping surface of Precambrian rocks which, prior to the deposition of the Palæozoic strata, had been reduced to a physiographic condition similar to that existing on the Canadian Shield to-day.

The sediments are almost wholly of marine origin, consist mainly of limestone, magnesian limestone and shale, and range in age from late Cambrian to late Devonian.

In the Ottawa-Montreal division the latest strata are Ordovician; these, together with the Potsdam sandstone (Cambrian), have a thickness of about 6,000 feet. In the Great Lakes region of southern Ontario the Ordovician formations are succeeded upward by those of Silurian age and these in turn by strata of Devonian age. The Ordovician formations form a zone extending from Kingston to the Niagara escarpment and stretching northwest to Georgian bay and into Manitoulin island. The Silurian formations are exposed in the Niagara escarpment and westward in a belt 25 to 50 miles wide stretching northwest from Niagara peninsula into Manitoulin island. West of this nearly the whole of the area between lake Erie and lake Huron is underlain by Devonian limestones and shales. Each in turn is exposed over an area farther to the southwest than the older and underlying formation, so that in travelling westward from Kingston to Sarnia one passes over the bevelled edges of successively younger strata. Borings made at Courtright, in the township of Moore, show a thickness of nearly 4,260 feet of sedimentary rocks.

It is probable that the seas in which some of these sedimentary rocks were formed extended northward over the Precambrian rocks through Hudson bay into the Arctic ocean. The presence of outliers on lake St. John, lake Nipissing, and lake Timiskaming in the south, and on lake Nicholson west of Hudson bay, of broad areas of Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian formations south of Hudson bay, and of Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian formations on the islands of the northern part of Hudson bay and of the Arctic seas, is clearly indicative of wide submergence. On the Arctic islands formations of Carboniferous (with coal seams) and Triassic ages are widespread, and there are patches of Tertiary sediments (with lignite). Sediments of Cretaceous age with lignite are found in Moose River basin.

The St. Lawrence Lowlands were covered by the glaciers of Pleistocene time, and the bedrock is to a great extent concealed by thick deposits of glacial till. In places are found stratified deposits that formed in lakes at the edge of the retreating ice sheet. Marine deposits were laid down in an arm of the sea that extended up the St. Lawrence and Ottawa valleys to a point above Ottawa.

The only intrusives worthy of mention are the igneous rocks of alkali types that form the Monteregian hills in southern Quebec, Mount Royal and seven others to the east. They are circular or oval hills that rise 600 to 1,200 feet above the plain and appear to be stock-like bodies or fillings of conduits that may have led to volcanic vents or larger masses of intrusives.

The mineral deposits are such as are usually found in the less altered sedimentary rocks. Petroleum has been produced in southern Ontario for 70 years; natural gas has been produced for 40 years in the counties bordering on lake Erie; salt has been obtained for a great many years from thick beds lying at a depth of about 1,000 feet in the counties bordering on lake Huron and lake St. Clair; gypsum is produced in the Grand River valley; limestone and dolomite, utilized in chemical and metallurgical industries, are widespread; materials for construction, for brick, tile and cement manufacture are abundant.