

sands are found in these beds in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and gypsum and salt in Palæozoic strata in Manitoba. Devonian beds produce the important oil fields of Alberta and Norman Wells in the Mackenzie Valley, N.W.T.

The St. Lawrence Lowland falls into three subdivisions, the first and most westerly includes Manitoulin Island and that part of Ontario facing on Lakes Erie and Ontario. It shows a prominent topographical feature, the Niagara Escarpment, an abrupt rise of 250 to 300 feet extending from the Niagara River to Bruce Peninsula. The second subdivision extends from the east side of the Frontenac axis (a southward projection of the Canadian Shield that crosses the St. Lawrence River between Kingston and Brockville, Ont.) east to Quebec City, and the third subdivision comprises Anticosti Island and the Mingan Islands.

The strata of the entire belt of the St. Lawrence Lowlands are of Palæozoic age. They lie horizontally or with low dips, are mainly of marine origin, and were deposited in seas that swept over a large part of the continent. Vertical movements caused these seas to advance and retreat so that the sediments deposited vary considerably. On Anticosti Island the rocks are of Upper Ordovician and Silurian age. The mineral occurrences in the St. Lawrence Lowlands are petroleum and natural gas, salt, gypsum, limestone, dolomite and also clay which can be used for the manufacture of bricks, tiles and cement.

The Hudson Bay Lowland, the other outlier of the Interior Plains, is underlain by flat-lying rocks mostly of Palæozoic age ranging from Ordovician to Devonian. It rises from sea-level with a very gradual gradient to a height of 400 feet. Lignite occurs in the Moose River Basin in beds of Upper Jurassic or Lower Cretaceous age overlying the Devonian beds.

The Cordilleran Region.—The Cordilleran Region comprises the mountainous country bordering the Pacific Ocean and covers an area of 600,000 sq. miles. It is made up of three zones. On the east is the Rocky Mountain Range, on the west along the coast is the Coast Range, and between the two is a third belt made up of upland and mountainous country.

The Rocky Mountains have a maximum width of 100 miles and peaks and elevations of from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. The Coast Range varies in width from 50 to 100 miles and rises abruptly from the coast to peaks of from 7,000 to 10,000 feet.

The northern part of the interior belt, known as the Yukon plateau, is a gently rolling upland broken into a series of flat-topped ridges by valleys several thousand feet deep; the southern part in British Columbia, rises from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above sea-level. To the east between the upland and the Rocky Mountains are a series of mountain ranges, the Selkirks with peaks of 11,000 feet being the most important.

The geological history of the Cordilleran is complex but may be summarized as follows. In Precambrian time sediments which are now in the form of limestones, gneisses and schists were deposited in the interior belt. In Yukon, these strata are known as the Yukon group and in central British Columbia as the Shuswap group. These have been altered by intrusive rocks and included with them are the