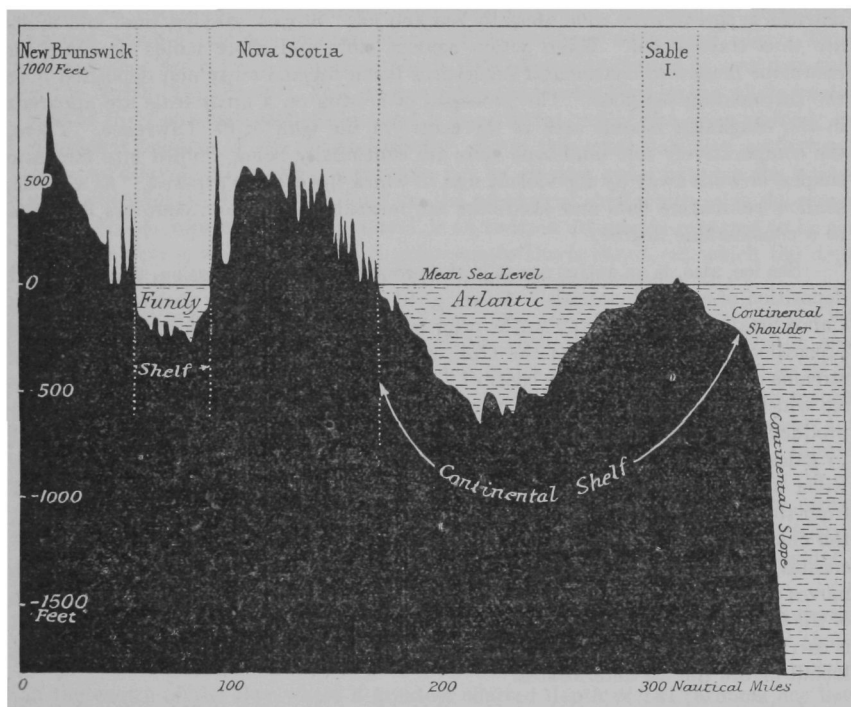


the 40-fathom line lies at an average distance of 12 miles from shore. This submarine contour constitutes the danger line for coastwise shipping but close within it lie some formidable menaces to navigation. Seaward, rise the extensive fishing banks known as Georges, Browns, La Have, Sambro, Middle, Misaine, Banquereau, Sable Island, St. Pierre and the Great Banks of Newfoundland. Sable Island, the dry top of a long undersea ridge, lies 90 miles off the nearest point of the continental coast and less than 25 miles from the rim of the deep oceanic basin. This Island is reported to be moving oceanward owing to the action of sea and wind, the sea encroaching on the western end and the land extending eastward.



A Cross-Section showing a Portion of the Continent and the Continental Shelf, Vicinity of Saint John, Halifax and Sable Island.

The whole floor of the marginal sea appears to be traversed with channels and gulleys, as yet imperfectly charted but sufficiently so to indicate the general outlines. The outer edge of this submerged flank of the continent is trenched with deep submarine ravines cutting well into the shelf. Outstanding of these is a bold, canyon-like depression which commences in the deep Atlantic Basin south of the Great Banks of Newfoundland and separating St. Pierre Bank on the north and Banquereau on the south. It continues northwestward through Cabot Strait, crosses the open Gulf of St. Lawrence to the north of the Magdalen Islands, thence runs past the Gaspé Coast into the broad estuary of the St. Lawrence. Branches extend for some distance into the northeast arm of the Gulf towards Belle Isle, and also along the northeastern coast of Anticosti Island. Depths in this trough vary from nearly