

Dear Sir

I stated last winter that I intended as soon as practicable to examine those parts of the Province southward of the Pictou coal trough which were formerly supposed to contain only Silurian and Metamorphic rocks but which I believed to include considerable tracts of Carboniferous strata. I have yet been unable to do anything towards the execution of this design except spending a few days in a hasty examination of the sections afforded by the principal branches of the St. Marys River. These afforded me a general idea of the structure of that part of the region which was previously least known, and this I may shortly state to you.

The Carboniferous rocks surrounding Cape Horn and including the Pouchet and Tracadie coal measures form a triangular district

of considerable extent and whose general boundaries I ascertained.

Southward and westward of the Antigonish tract is a long narrow belt of sandstones with some shales & conglomerates extending along the West Branch of the St Marys river. These I have no doubt belong to the Carboniferous system — they afford excellent freestone for building, and contain a few fossil plants and small seams of imperfect coal, but I saw no valuable coal beds, though such may exist, as the sections afforded of the rivers are very imperfect, and the time I could spare for their examination very short.

The two tracts of Carboniferous strata above mentioned are separated from each other, from the coal formation of the Stevencache Valley, and from the Pictou coal-formation though by belts of metamorphic and igneous rocks forming hilly ranges which are connected,

with the Merigomish mountains.

You will see that the structure alone
sketch described is much more compli-
cated and interesting than was formerly
supposed, and my rapid glance at it
has confirmed me in the opinion before
expressed that in the event of a geologi-
cal survey being undertaken, this part
of the province should be carefully explored.
I have not yet published anything on this
subject and do not intend to do so until
I can make some further investigations. I
have sent these few facts, merely to satisfy
you that I have endeavoured to confirm
a disproof of actual examination the opinion
which I had formed from the reports of others
respecting the existence of Carboniferous deposits
south of the County of Pictou, and which
I stated last winter to the Committee on
Mines.

Letter to

J. B. Young

1846

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]