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GEOLOGICAL NOTES

By the Late Dr. George M. Dawson, C.M.G.,

Ancient Tertiary channel. Where seen on the plateau between Hat Creek and Maiden Creek it consists of sandstones and conglomerates, often in very massive beds. Their thickness is here at least 500 feet. To the North of this point the plateau is found to be covered by basaltic rocks. On Maiden Creek, a small area of volcanic rock was found to overlap the conglomerate and sandstone beds in horizontal layers. This is composed of hornblende andesite. It is possible that beds of this character may occupy considerable area of adjacent parts of the wide junction valley near Clinton, but this is entirely buried beneath drift deposits and recent alluvium. The base of a sandstone deposit of this kind, occupying, as it does, a great depression in the old sandstone rocks, would appear to be a likely place in which to search for old tertiary gold placers.

The discovery of several loose specimens of rock containing richly auriferous hematite in the gravel deposit near Clinton has been noted in a previous report. Enquiries made on the spot show that such specimens, consisting of jaspery hematite with quartz has been found in three separate places West of the town of Clinton and one of them subjected to assay is reported as yielding gold to the value of \$300.00 per ton. The source from which these fragments have been derived has not yet been ascertained.

The Mount Morgan gold deposit of Queensland, which is the most recent important gold discovery (1888) illustrates still another peculiar occurrence of exceptionally rich gold ore. The gold is here found minutely disseminated in a mass of brown and red hematite and siliceous sinter, which has apparently been produced by a former thermo and geyser-like spring. The gold content of this material is no less than about 7 ounces to the ton and at present 1,500 tons a week are treated. Fragments of richly auriferous rock resembling Mount Morgan have been found at Clinton, British Columbia, but have not yet been traced to their source.

See Report of the Minister of Mines, B.C., 1886.