

*Note on the Identification of the Scotch and New Brunswick "Albertites."*

By the Rev. D. HONEYMAN, D.C.L., F.R.S.C., Curator of the Provincial Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

(Communicated by Professor W. IVISON MACADAM.)

[Read October 26th, 1886.]

PROF. TENNANT, of London, and I, identified the two "Albertites" in 1862. I was then a Commissioner for Nova Scotia at the Great Exhibition. In the neighbouring Court of New Brunswick there was a tub full of specimens of Albertite, which were freely given to visitors by Mr. Daniel, the Commissioner for New Brunswick, and myself.

It was, therefore, no astonishment when the Professor's assistant put into my hand a piece of "Albertite" as I entered the shop, and asked me what I thought of it. I said, "It is a piece of our New Brunswick Albertite." He replied, it was not from New Brunswick, but from some part of England, and showed me a boxfull that had just been received. The only guide to the locality whence it came were the markings on the lid of the box—"Aberdeen Railway" and Kiltearn. A Scotchman could recognise Scotland in "Earn." On referring to Murchison and Geikie's map, I soon found Kiltearn, and observed that the Old Red Sandstone was the formation that produced the mineral. One of the specimens had a piece of micaceous rock attached. The Professor told me that he had received the box from a Mr. Mackenzie. We made a comparative examination of the two Albertites. The result was communicated to Mr. Mackenzie, with a copy of Dawson's paper on the New Brunswick Albertite, contained in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London*. At the Geologist's Club I showed the piece with the rock attached to Prof. (Sir) Andrew Ramsay. He immediately said that it was a piece of our *Nova Scotia* Albertite, but was somewhat astonished when I told him it was from Kiltearn, Scotland. I gave him the specimen. He said he would put it in the Museum. Another of those pieces is preserved in our Provincial Museum, where it lies beside a New Brunswick specimen for the purpose of comparison. The only difference observable between the two is in the shade of colour. The Scotch specimen is blacker than the other.

It is not generally known that the New Brunswick mineral was first brought into notice by Dr. Abraham Gerner, F.G.S., the pioneer geologist of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He maintained that it was an

asphalt and not a coal, and applied it as the former to the manufacture of gas, in opposition to a monopoly of making gas from coal. There was a litigation and a diversity of opinion in reference to the nature of the substance. It consequently received the name Albertite, from Albert County, New Brunswick, where it is found.

After doing good service in the manufacture of gas in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and elsewhere, for a number of years, the deposit was exhausted. Another locality called Belleveau was operated for Albertite without success. Prof. Burwash, *Trans. Institute of Nat. Science*, Vol. IV. p. 309.

The bituminous shales containing the Albertite have produced a large number of ganoids, large and small, chiefly of the genus *Palæoniscus*. This and Belleveau are the only localities where we find fishes entire in the carboniferous formation of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The bituminous shales of Antigonish County have abundance of scales of *Palæoniscus*. In corresponding shales of Horton Bluff, also in Nova Scotia, I have collected *Palæoniscus* scales and teeth, separate, and in a lower jaw. Various *Lepidodendra* have been found associated in the Antigonish shales.

Albertite is thus found in the Lower Carboniferous formation in New Brunswick, and the Old Red Sandstone of Kiltearn (Strathpeffer). How it was inserted in the one and the other yet requires to be demonstrated.

---