

a wholly different basin. On the west its waters encroached farther on the Precambrian land than the Beekmantown waters did. On the south it was very irregularly deposited, owing to slight unevenness of the floor. It is not certain whether it was contemporaneous with the later Chazy or followed that in time. Its fluctuations in thickness, its occasional absence, and its sharp contact line with the Beekmantown through most of the Mohawk valley give physical evidence of a considerable time gap between the two formations, during which some slight flexing and erosion of the Beekmantown rocks took place, and during which the Cassin and Chazy rocks were being deposited in the Chazy basin. This evidence is so clear that it would seem that the apparent passage beds in the West Canada creek district can not be actually such, but belong with the Lowville. The Lowville depression seems to have invaded the district from the southwest, and these beds represent an older stage of the formation than do any of those found to the eastward in the Mohawk valley.

Black River limestone. This formation is found on all sides of the Adirondacks, though locally lacking in the Mohawk valley. Throughout the Champlain valley region it shows a massive, basal layer of pure, dove-colored limestone which much resembles the Lowville except that it lacks the characteristic calcite tubes. Above this layer the entire formation consists of massive layers of solid, brittle, pure, black limestone, breaking with conchoidal fracture. About the lower end of Lake Champlain it ranges from 30 feet to 50 feet in thickness. Southward along the lake the writer has not seen the sections, but White reports a measured thickness of 71 feet, 3 inches on Crown Point peninsula, the greatest observed thickness reached in the State.¹ From this point it thins toward the south, as do all the Paleozoic formations of the region. In Saratoga county it has an intermediate character, containing layers which resemble the Lowville, Prosser's sections at Glens Falls showing a thickness of 27 feet for the two combined. This seems however an exceptional thickness, most sections in the vicinity being vastly thinner. Coming around into the Mohawk valley, the formation ranges from 5 to 9 feet in thickness about Amster-

¹White, T. G. Geol. Soc. Am. Bul. 10:457.