

amount along this axis during the uplift which terminated the Cretaceous erosion cycle, with accompanying downfaulting on the east, giving the fragments of the Cretaceous peneplain varying altitudes and increasing the prominence of the Champlain depression.

#### Lake belt

In southern Franklin county, nestling in the angle produced by the offset of the main axis of elevation to the west is an area of broad valleys and low ridges in which lakes are more thickly clustered than in any other part of the region, and for which therefore the name "Lake belt" has been suggested, for the lack of a better term. The valley bottoms have the same levels that they have in adjacent districts, but the ridges are low, commonly only 200 feet or 300 feet high, not by any means attaining the levels that they do in the country east, and considerably lower than the summits in the other direction, though the discrepancy is not so pronounced. The relief is in general insignificant. All the ridge summits are well beneath the horizon of the Cretaceous peneplain level.

No cause for this discrepancy is to be found in the character of the underlying rocks. These are anorthosite and syenite for the most part, the most resistant of all the Adirondack rocks. The rocks of the Lake belt are in no sense weaker than in the areas of higher altitude and greater relief adjoining, are in fact stronger than those to the west.

The belt has many features which indicate that the main pre-glacial drainage systems passed through it; and this would necessarily tend to lower its general level more rapidly than would be the case at a greater distance from the main drainage lines. But the fact that it is sharply separated from the adjacent districts instead of fading into them, with no change in the rock character, and the abundant rock ridges, all of small altitude and none reaching at all nearly the Cretaceous base level, seem to require a structural cause for their explanation; and it is regarded as a probable dropped fault block, the district to the east having been