

THE COLUMBIAN BASIN AREA

(U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY)

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

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in and marginal to the Imperial anticline. The
possibility of additional oil has been
smaller positive structures in the Basin area. These
are recommended on Whirlpool anticline on Mountain River,
and on the Imperial anticline, near Ink Lake. Imperial
River and Sammons Creek prospects are two additional possi-
bilities for locations on the Imperial anticline.

Geophysical surveys will be necessary before
recommendations can be made for locations in the area between
Carcajou River and the Mackenzie. Further geophysical work
is also required to map out the trend and establish closure,
before a second well can be located on the Morrow Creek
structure.

The active oil seep near Bath Hills is encouraging
and warrants detailed surface geological work, in an effort
to obtain information which would favor a location for a
test well.

INTRODUCTION

Field work during the 1944 field season was confined to the Norman - Carcajou Basin area and consisted mainly of checking over various prominent structural features which were mapped by Canol Project Geologists in 1943.

The summer's program was as follows:-

June 5 to June 14 - Morrow Creek, Ferry Island,
and Sans Sault,

June 22 to July 23 - Carcajou River area, including Imperial anticline,
Rainbow Arch, Sarmons Creek,
Trail Creek, etc.,

August 7 to August 27 - Imperial Mountains,

August 29 to September 3 - Blackwood Lake, Sarmons
Creek and vicinity,

September 7 to September 23 - Mountain River and
Hume River.

Personnel engaged in geological field work during the summer of 1944 were: J. M. Leannon, H. K. Reid,
and J. D. Sluzer, with assistance by R. D. Sluzer.

Plate II - Vertical Sections, Mountain River Area -

Scale 4 inches to 1 mile, by W.P. Hancock.

Plate III - Geologic Map of Norman Carcajou Basin

Area - Norman Wells to Mountain River -

Scale 1 inch to 1 mile, by F.A. McKinnon.

Plate IV - Cross Sections, Carcajou River Area -

Scale 2 inches to 1 mile, by F.A. McKinnon.

Plate V - Geologic Map of Hume River Area - Scale

1 inch to 1 mile, by F. A. McKinnon.

STRATIGRAPHY

General Statement

The stratigraphy of the Norman - Carcajou Basin Area is fully discussed in the reports by Imperial Oil Limited - Panel Project geologists for the 1943 field season.

Stratigraphic data obtained in the field are fairly well in line with the conceptions previously held, and the correlation of the formations are necessary here. The following is a summary of the formations in the Norman - Carcajou Basin Area.

The formations are as follows:

1. Norman

Beavertail Formation

The Beavertail Formation is composed of angular blocks of dolomite, cemented in a calcareous matrix, and is often notably bituminous. The formation contains bedded zones which grade laterally into massive limestone, and also a well-developed gypsum horizon.

The age of this formation has not been determined, nor is its origin definitely known. Its thickness is fairly constant, about 400 feet.

DEVONIAN

Middle Devonian - Beavertail - Ramparts Formation

Formerly mapped as two separate formations, the Beavertail - Ramparts consists of a thick lower series of alternating dark grey limestones and limey shales, with an upper massive buff-colored limestone member. On the whole it is very fossiliferous except in the upper part.

The thickness of the Beavertail - Ramparts in the Carcajou River area is about 350 feet. In the central and westward parts of the Imperial Range it is over 2,000 feet thick, and this

increase appears to be in the lower part of the section. At Sans Sault it is 1,517 feet thick, and at Harrow Creek it is 955 feet.

Lower Devonian - Fort Creek Formation

The Fort Creek has two main subdivisions; an upper soft gray crumbly member and a lower hard black platy part. The roof limestone, where present, generally occurs between the two. The formation is around 1,000 feet thick in the eastern part of the basin, and thins to about 90 feet in the western part. It is absent in the northwestern part, around Bath Hill.

Lower Devonian - Bosworth Formation

The Bosworth is composed of light gray to greenish or buff sandstones and micaceous shales. In the eastern part of the area it is over 1,000 feet thick. In the northwest parts, around East Mountain, Sans Sault and Bath Hill, it is absent. On Mountain River it is about 1,300 feet thick.

CRETACEOUS

The Cretaceous formations, and a new correlation for them, are discussed in Part IV.

STRUCTURE

General Statement

The Norman - Carcajou Basin area is a wide synclinal basin in which several positive structural features occur. These positive features range in size from small flexures to large ridges, which are accompanied by fairly complex folding and faulting.

average 30 miles in width. It is bounded on the northeastern side by the long arcuate Discovery range, and on the southwestern side by the front of the Shastanide mountains.

Since the assignments for the 1944 season consisted mostly of evaluating certain previously-known structural features of the basin area, it seems advisable to discuss each of these from the standpoint of its structure. This is done in the following pages.

PART I - MACKENZIE RIVER PROSPECTS
(By F. A. McKinnon)

At Arrow Creek, Perry Island and Sans Sault prospects were examined in the early part of June, 1944, and a report was submitted immediately, to enable the Drilling Department to organize a program for drilling during the summer. (4)

Arrow Creek Structure

This prospect was recommended by Hancock (5) in 1943. The anticlinal structure is clearly defined, lying in Hosworth beds. Geophysical surveys by both seismograph and gravity meter have confirmed its presence at depth. All indications are that this structure is not connected with the Hoosier Anticline.

Following the recommendations of the geological department, a well was drilled at this location during the latter part of the summer. This well reached the Bear Rock formation at 1,965 feet, and was suspended at a depth of 2,024 feet after encountering a very large flow of salt water in the Bear Rock.

Although the results of this first well have been discouraging, the structure is not condemned, and it is possible that with the help of further study of the results of geological and geophysical surveys, a new location may be recommended.

Perry Island

The presence of a structure between Perry Island and the south bank of Mackenzie River was suspected by Hancock during his survey of the islands of the Mackenzie in 1943. (5)

Bath Hills Oil Seep

(Part of the Mackenzie River) is located on the left bank of the Mackenzie River. Further mapping of the exposures at this location in 1944, confirmed the structure, and a drilling site was established.

The well drilled on this location during the summer reached the Bear Rock at a depth of 2,925 feet, and operations were suspended for the winter at a depth of 3,123 feet.

No favorable signs of oil were found. Present plans are that this well will be deepened during 1945, to test the formations underlying the Bear Rock dolomite. For the time being no further recommendations are made for this prospect.

Bath Hills Oil Seep

An active oil seep on Mackenzie River near the Bath Hills was reported by the gravity crew during the summer, and was visited by McKimmon late in September, 1944. At that time the river was at a low stage, and the seep, which ordinarily would be covered by water, was just at river level.

The oil exudes as small blubs from fractures in the massive limestones which are near the top of the Beavertail-Bamparts formation. The oil seep is surrounded by many strong sulphur springs. No free oil was obtained, but specimens of the oil covered rock and samples of film-covered water were collected and sent to the chemist at Norman Wells. Results of this analysis have not been submitted.

The source of the oil cannot be positively stated. However it is significant that the beds in this locality are folded, and that the rocks from which the oil flows are older than the reef limestone horizon in which oil is found at Norman Wells. This adds importance to the testing of the Bear Rock dolomite, which is notably bituminous in the adjacent area east of the Mackenzie River (3).

It is recommended that further field work in the Bath Hills be undertaken as soon as possible in 1945, in an attempt to obtain more information regarding the seep, and if possible to locate a location for a test hole.

Redford, Campbell and Kinner, traversed Imperial River from the Canal Head to the Rockhouse during the period June 22 to July 23. The size of this party, and the amount of time available, made it possible to work inland on both sides of the river and cover far more of the adjoining country than was previously possible. (See Plate III)

The Imperial anticlinorium was studied in considerable detail, and a few revisions were made in the stratigraphy as reported by Bath in 1943 (1).

Imperial River Prospect

By the directive of May 10, 1944, the field parties were requested to make a particular study of the Imperial anticline in the vicinity of Imperial River, in an attempt to establish closure along the axis, and if possible to recommend a location to test the beds from Lower Fort Creek to Bear Rock. Previous work on this problem was done by Nauss (11) and Laudon (7).

Both Nauss and Laudon have considered the possibilities of a well location on the Imperial anticline at Imperial River and both of these men held the opinion that the best location for such a well would be in the vicinity of the intersection of the Imperial River and the axis of the anticline.

...that the Beavertail limestone
at this point is not more than 150 feet of Fort Creek
...was based on the presence of blocks of lime-
stone containing fossils described as Hypothyridina castanea,
...in the lower 110 feet of the
...observations during
...described by Nauss are not in place,
...only a small limestone bearing the same
...in the cliffs at least 200 feet above the river
at the same place. Thus Nauss' conception is shown to be
erroneous.

Laudon refers to this prospect as follows:-

"The structure is a closed dome on the
top of the Imperial anticlinal structure.
The highest point of the structure is
...flat of Imperial
...junction
..."

Nauss's evidence of closure was apparently obtained
...the axis on Imperial River, as shown
by the dips and strikes on his map. However, the dips and strikes
recorded by the writers during the 1944 season do not concur with
those of Laudon, and failed to establish closure along the axis.

Regarding the thickness of the beds covering the Beaver-
tail limestone, Laudon assumed a minimum of at least 300 feet,
but states that "it is altogether probable that the cover is
greater than this."

ing, since there is little or no evidence of closure along the axis. However, it has been pointed out that this is the only presently known prospective test of the Beavertail and Bear Rock formations in this locality. If the winter program of geophysical exploration can be extended this far afield, further information may be obtained.

A location at the mouth of Imperial River would be difficult of access. It could probably be reached most easily

from the Canol-Whitehorse highway, by a winter road which would parallel the Carcajou on the north side, or by descending the river on the ice.

Link Lake Prospect

The presence of a closed high on the Imperial anticline about half way between Imperial River and Sammons Creek was first noticed by Dr. D. A. Link while on aerial reconnaissance in the basin area. The structure was subsequently delineated by L. Desjardins on U.S.A.A.F. oblique aerial photographs, but was not examined on the ground prior to 1944.

The Link Lake prospect is topographically as well as geologically a closed high. It has been exposed to the axis of the Imperial anticline. Exposures of Bear Lake and Link Lake are brecciated and contain fragments of the surrounding formations. Strong sulphur springs

are present in the area and are very well defined in exposures

of the surrounding formations on both sides of the axis.

The structure is a closed high along the axis

and is a closed high on both sides

of the axis. The structure is a closed high of Bear Lake

and is a closed high of the Imperial anticline, the

structure is a closed high of the Imperial anticline

and is a closed high of the Imperial anticline

and is a closed high of the Imperial anticline

and is a closed high of the Imperial anticline

and is a closed high of the Imperial anticline

South of Sammons River, just east of Sammons Creek is a structure of considerable height, which is also a closed dome on the Imperial anticline. Bear Rock beds are exposed in its axial region, and they are surrounded by "vin rocks" of Beavertail limestone. The plunge to the east is gentle, but to the west must be rather sudden, since only a narrow strip of Bear Rock is exposed on Sammons Creek, several hundred feet lower than the central part of the structure.

As a test of the formations below the Bear Rock, this structure is larger, and possibly more favorable in that regard, than the Link Lake prospect. However, it is much less accessible. The country is high and rugged, pitted with innumerable sink holes, and thickly covered with brush. Furthermore, the banks of the Carcajou in this vicinity are high and steep, with no valleys large enough to offer means of access to the lower mouth of the river. For reasons of inaccessibility, therefore, this structure is regarded with less favor than the Link Lake prospect.

Rainbow Arch and Vicinity

On the south side of the Carcajou River, about 10 miles from the mouth, is a small structure of considerable height, which is also a closed dome on the Imperial anticline. Bear Rock beds are exposed in its axial region, and they are surrounded by "vin rocks" of Beavertail limestone. The plunge to the east is gentle, but to the west must be rather sudden, since only a narrow strip of Bear Rock is exposed on Sammons Creek, several hundred feet lower than the central part of the structure.

Sammons Creek, and the eastward extension of the fold. The west the country is brush covered and the topography is from several miles, but from all observations it appears that this "Brasshat" fold is parallel to the main anticline and finally becomes the main central anticline of the Imperial Mountains uplift. The rise to the west is gentle and gradual with no indication of local closure anywhere.

(d) The fourth fold in this series has been named the Sammons anticleine. It is a rather tight fold, and has been traced only about a mile east of Sammons Creek. No information was obtained regarding its westward extension.

(e) The fifth fold on Sammons Creek is the main Imperial anticleine, which is a clearly-defined major structural feature extending from Hopkins Lake to Sammons Creek, but which has not been traced westward from Sammons Creek.

(f)(g) The sixth and seventh folds mapped on Sammons Creek are small and not clearly defined. They are found in lower Fort Creek beds, near the junction of Sammons Creek and Blackwood Creek, but have not been traced eastward or westward.

Trail Anticline

The existence of the so-called Trail anticline has never been definitely proven. Exposures of Cretaceous beds along Grouse River and on Trail Creek indicate the possible presence of a westward fold, but evidence is not sufficient to complete

as part of the geological survey of the area.

This part of the survey was completed by lying on ground surface about 100 feet above the study area, and taking a series of photographs, instead of making local reconnaissance as was done in 1943.

The results of this work show that the area has a slight regional dip to the south. The same general trend is indicated by the gravity data, except that the first gravity map shows a positive anomaly east of Cherokee River and West Mountain. However, no interesting structural features were found by surface geological work in this locality.

... through the ...
... some of the ...
... are no lakes large enough for
fleet-plank loadings and no streams large enough for
canoe travel. The survey party was landed on Imperial
Lake, on the north side of the range, four to five
miles west of Rainbow Arch. From a base camp at this
lake, supplies were packed up into the mountains, and
left in caches, which were used later during an 8 -
day fly trip through the range. Although this pro-
cedure made it possible to work out the main structural
features of the range and to obtain considerable data
on the stratigraphy of the area, limits of time and
distance prevented the accumulation of as much infor-
mation as would normally be desired. It is the
opinion of the writers that the information is
sufficient from the standpoint of petrology and geology
in the area.

As was pointed out in the descriptions of the folds on Sammons Creek, the three most northerly of the seven folds can be traced westward from Carcajou River. Of these three, the two outer ones, Shavetail and Rainbow anticlines, appear to die out near Imperial Lake. The third fold, the "Brasshat" anticline, appears to rise and widen to the west, and forms the main central anticlinal fold of the Imperial range. For about fifteen miles west of Sammons Creek this fold rises gently and gradually at one to four degrees, to reach a maximum elevation of approximately 2,250 feet. This elevation is structural as well as topographic. Dips on the south flank over this distance average 10 to 12 degrees. On the north flank the beds turn over very suddenly, and for most of the length of the range are nearly vertical.

Absence of exposures and relative inaccessibility of the area to the south of the range have limited the amount of information, and little is known of structural conditions here or of the possible westward extensions of the remaining folds on Sammons Creek.

Beavertail-Ramparts and Bear Rock beds are exposed throughout the central part of the range, but without a more precise plot of the topography of the range it is impossible to represent the distribution of these formations on a map. Most of the range is covered by beds of the Beavertail-Ramparts formation, with Bear Rock beds exposed in the creek bottoms and in the central part of the range where the forces of erosion have cut deeply into the mountains.

From the standpoint of stratigraphy it is important to note the trend of the interval between the units on Canajou River above the base of the Bear Rock and the stones and liney shales between the base of the Bear Rock and top of the Bear Rock. Fifteen miles west of this interval has thickened to at least 2,000 feet. Most of this thickening occurs in the lower part of the formation, and is apparently due to the introduction into the section of a series of soft grey to dark grey liney shales. The thickness of this series on Mountain River is reported to be 1,716 feet. (13)

No recommendations are made in the Imperial range, for the following reasons:

- (1) The Bear Rock dolomite is exposed throughout much of the central part of the range, and other more accessible locations are available as excellent tests of pre-Bear Rock horizons.
- (2) There are no local closures within the range.
- (3) The most accessible part of the range would be extremely difficult to reach with heavy equipment.

THE FIRST GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MOUNTAIN RIVER WAS
made in 1943 by J. M. Parker (13) who ran a plane-table traverse through the Imperial mountains and mapped the Whirlpool and Turnbull anticlines, recommending a well location on Whirlpool anticline.

Mountain River was descended during the 1944 field season for the purpose of further study of the Whirlpool anticline and to mark a drilling site on this structure. The Turnbull anticline lying below (north of) the Whirlpool anticline was also studied, and further examination was made of the Imperial anticlinorium.

Mountain River emerges from the Mackenzie mountains about 50 miles due west of Norman Wells, and flows through concessions 6 and 8 of the Imperial Oil Limited - Norman Exploration holdings in the Norman Wells area, to enter the Mackenzie River just above Sans Sault Rapids, 70 miles downstream from Norman Wells.

The writer and H. K. Reidford were landed on Florence Lake by C.P.A. Norseman on September 7th. The party proceeded to Mountain River via Lake Doris and Virgin Creek, using two canoes. That part of the Imperial anticlinorium adjacent to Mountain River was examined, completing the study of this structure, which was begun by the field parties on the previous assignment during August 1944. A plane-table survey was made along Mountain River across the Whirlpool anticline. The plane table survey was tied in to a previous

The following page is a comparative table of formations as given by Parker and corrected by the author as the result of 1934 field data.

DISCUSSION

The Palomede section as measured and described by Parker (13) where Mountain River cuts through the Imperial range is left unchanged except for revisions in nomenclature. These revisions were made to conform to conclusions reached in the study of the Imperial range, and have been confirmed by data obtained from the Sans Sault No. 1 well.

The following formation descriptions are a summary of those given by Parker.

Devonian or Silurian - Bear Rock Formation

This formation has been divided into two sections.

Comparative Table of Formations

Mountain River Area

J. H. Parker 1913-1937

W. B. Hancock 1944

	Formation	Thickness	Age	Formation	Thickness
CRETACEOUS			Upper	Little Bear, sandstone & shale	150 ±
				Slater River, shale & bentonite	1000 ±
	"Link" sandstone & sh.	335 ±	CRETACEOUS		
	"Sperry" shale	2150		Sans Sault, sandstone & shale	3850
	Sans Sault, sandstone & shale	1410	Lower		
DEVONIAN			Upper	Bosworth, sandstone & shale	1200
	Bosworth, sandstone & shale	1200	DEVONIAN		
	U. Fort Creek, shale	90		Fort Creek, shale	90
	Reef Limestone & L. Fort Creek, shale	390			
	Beavertail, limestone	80		Beavertail-Ramparts, limestone & shale	1716
	Upper Ramparts, ls.	100			
	Middle Ramparts, shale	700			
	Lower Ramparts ls.	416			
	Bear Rock, limestone & dolomite	200 ±	Middle	Bear Rock, limestone & dolomite breccia	200 ±

from the ...
range

The upper section ...
150 feet thick.

Both sections may be regarded as possible ...
rocks.

Middle Devonian - Beavertail-Ramparts Formation

Included in this is the uppermost 350 feet of limestone which Parker called Reef Limestone, correlating it in general stratigraphic position with the Reef Limestone at Norman Wells. No subdivision into individual formations or members is made by the writer, and details of description may be found in Parker's report. Parker measured a total thickness of 1,716 feet for these sediments, composed of 800 feet of relatively pure limestone, 200 feet of shaley limestone with shale bands, and 700 feet of shale with limestone beds.

Bituminous matter was found locally but not abundantly, in both the limestones and shales. Source and reservoir rocks appear to be present in the section.

Lower Devonian - Fort Creek Formation

This formation consists of 90 feet of black platy bituminous shales and thin shaley limestones. The formation is a probable

source rock for oil but not likely in any great quantity because of its thinness. It would provide a cap rock for oil accumulation in the limestone below.

Upper Devonian - Bosworth (Norman) Formation

Parker mapped this section in detail on the north flank of Imperial range. It consists of 1,200 feet of shales, sandy shales, sandstones and limestones.

Almost as thick a section is exposed on Whirlpool Creek. This section was mapped for structural information and no attempt was made to subdivide it according to lithology or faunal zones.

The formation is thought to have little or no importance as source or reservoir rocks.

MESOZOIC

Cretaceous

The stratigraphy and correlation of the Cretaceous sediments in the Norman Wells area is probably more confused in the literature than that of any other rock group. This is partly due to the scarcity of megafossils, partly to the lack of any number of correlatable lithologic horizons, and partly to the introduction of unnecessary new formation names, having indefinite and widely separated type localities, resulting in ambiguous correlations.

On Mountain River, Parker (13) divided the Cretaceous

into three groups, from oldest to youngest these are the

Link formations. Nauss (11)

has been used for the Cretaceous on Imperial River.

It appears that not only

the Mountain River non-

are assigned to the same categories on

Imperial River, but the same lithologic horizon as the former river has been mapped as both "Sperry" and "Link" in age. In this report the name Sans Sault is retained because it is the first name assigned to the sediments of Lower Cretaceous age in the area. The names Slater River and Little Bear are used in preference to "Sperry" and "Link", because the above mentioned confusion regarding the latter terminology is avoided, and there are lithological bases for using the Slater River and Little Bear terminology, both of which are prior names.

Lower Cretaceous - Sans Sault Formation

This name was assigned by Parker (14) to the Lower Cretaceous sediments exposed in the Mackenzie River Valley. The type section is at the Sans Sault rapids in the Mackenzie River, and is defined as "all bed from the base of the Lower Cretaceous upward to the base of a non-sandy, thick shale section". Reudanticeras cf. affine (a lower Cretaceous ammonite) associated with Inoceramus Pleuromya, Gorbula, Gastropiles, Uca, Decapoda and Pinna were found in the lower part of this formation. The upper part of the Sans Sault formation is composed of a thick bedded sandstone and shale.

...the Devonian.

...in the
...of
...the Slater

...tigras

...assigned to
...field season,
...at the mouth of Red
...by
...as

...be confined
...probability
...the uncon-
...and lower Cretaceous sediments
...information

...approximately
...and "light
...the "berry"
...by

...the low at
...below the mouth

characteristic, although, as shown in Plate 1, the thickness of the bentonite seams varies from 1 inch to 1 foot. In this section (C. 2. 1160-15) collected from the same beds of equivalent age in the Bear Rock - Blue

by virtue of the accepted correlation. The bentonite seams are excellent correlating horizons because they are generally widespread and restricted in time range. It is logical, therefore, to correlate the bentonitic shales of Virgin Creek, Carcajou River and Mountain River with the Slater River formation. These beds on Carcajou River near Imperial River are the equivalent of the "Sperry" formation as mapped by Nauss (11) on Imperial River. Bentonitic shales at the mouth of Virgin Creek on Mountain River were mapped as "Sperry" by Parker, but on the north flank of Whirlpool anticline these same beds were placed at the top of the Cretaceous section, in the "Link" formation. These shales are now called Slater River. Only 70 feet of the bentonitic shales are exposed on Mountain River, but a thickness of 1,000 feet is assigned to this formation by the writer, on the basis of assumed structural conditions (Plate 2), and regional considerations.

Upper Cretaceous - Little Bear Formation

In its type section on Little Bear River the rocks assigned to this formation consist of sandstones, locally conglomeratic, sandy shales, and coal seams. The beds are lenticular and even local correlations are uncertain.

Beds of equivalent age are thought to be present throughout much of the Norman Wells area but their correlation is difficult. In general any sandy series lying above recognized Slater River type shales may be tentatively correlated with the Little Bear series. The K3 division of the Cretaceous on Leon Creek (4) and the "Link" formation in its type locality on Imperial River (11) are placed in this category. On the Mountain River not more than 150 feet of sandy beds, which may be equivalent to the Little Bear formation, are exposed. These lie in the trough and on the flanks of the syncline north of Whirlpool anticline, and on the north flank of the Turnbull anticline.

STRUCTURE

Mountain River crosses the western extremity of the Mackenzie and a structural basin. This basin is 20 miles wide, extending from the base of East Mountain to the Mackenzie mountain front. It is bounded to the east by the Imperial anticlinorium. The Mackenzie Mountains from Imperial

are present in this
anticline

one follows structure of the
Well No. 2 tower. The field work was done in 1944
this report.

No work was done between the Mackenzie mountains and
Imperial anticlinorium so there is nothing to add to Parker's
account of the structure of this part of the area. The Imperial
anticlinorium is considered elsewhere in the report of the 1944
field work.

Whirlpool Syncline

Whirlpool syncline lies between Imperial anticlinorium
and Whirlpool anticline. This basin is somewhat asymmetrical.
Dips up to 50 degrees were recorded in the Cretaceous beds on the
south limb and the highest dip observed in these beds on the north
limb was 19 degrees. The basin is about 6 miles wide, measured from
the base of the Cretaceous.

Whirlpool Anticline

The Whirlpool anticline is a slightly asymmetrical fold
of considerable structural relief. Its axis trends north 68 degrees
west 10 degrees and crosses the Mountain River. The anticline is
partly eroded. Whirlpool Creek, west of the anticline,

... north sandstones and shales are
... This new fold crosses the
... an exposure of Cret-
... 100 feet from the
... probably Cretaceous,
... first ... sized a
... north sandstones and
... from this point. A
... at the creek in
... the southern
...
... of the river
... synclinal axis
... essentially
... and
... degrees. A southward
... feet
... Clark
... exposure,
... degrees. The
... 10 degrees
... shales
... due to
... other
... bounded ...

presence of a certain amount of sandstone, but the shale is not
interbedded with sandstone, and the sandstone is not
lenticular. The sandstone is not
of thickness equal to the shale. The sandstone is
estimated a thickness of 100 to 200 feet. These beds, however, are not correlative with the shale. The
itic shales is approximately 3,800 feet above the base of the
Cretaceous section. Although the thickness of these shales is not
known in this area, it seems safe to assume, from regional con-
siderations, that it is at least 1,000 feet. Using the above
figures, and projecting the exposures into the subsurface in accord-

feet is indicated at the north flank of the Imperial range N.P.

Where the antiformal axis crosses the river, the Bosworth beds indicate a plunge of 8 to 16 degrees to the northeast. The amount of plunge apparently increases to the east, for the top of the Bosworth is estimated to be 1,500 feet below the surface where section CD crosses the axis. Section HI illustrates the steep westward plunge of the Bosworth beneath Mountain River and the gentle westward plunge at Whirlpool Creek. Between Whirlpool Creek and the Bosworth exposure on Mountain River there is no structural control. Section HI pictures the structure between these points as relatively flat with the steep plunge beginning abruptly near the edge of the river valley.

Cross-section FG is drawn at right angles to the trend of the structure in the vicinity of Whirlpool Creek. Using the thickness of the Bosworth as recorded by Parker on the north limb of the Imperial range, and the dip values recorded in these beds along Whirlpool Creek, the base of the Bosworth formation is shown to be 180 feet from the surface at the crest of the fold on section FG. Assuming a uniform thickness of the Bosworth from Imperial range to this area, the crest of the fold here is at least 6,395 feet structurally higher than the north bounding synclinal axis on the river. Using the same assumptions the structural relief with respect to the Whirlpool syncline is at least 4,570 feet.

The structure is rated as very good for a test of the Beavertail-Ramparts and older formations in this area. The fold plunges steeply to the north-east where crossed by the Mountain River. A low plunge to the southwest was measured on Whirlpool Creek. The maximum possible width of the closed area is seven miles. Its length is not definitely known, but the closure appears to extend eight to ten miles to the west of Mountain River. The steep eastward plunge of the anticline probably limits the eastward closure to one or two miles east of the Bosworth exposures on Mountain River. This gives a possible overall length of the closed area of nine to eleven miles. The relatively deeper north-bounding syncline suggests that beyond the closed area the structure may be monoclinial.

The structure is rated as very good for a test of the Beavertail-Ramparts and older formations in this area.

Turnbull Anticline

Very little is known regarding this structure due to lack of sufficient exposures. Its bounding synclinal axes are about five and one-half miles apart.

of the flank of the anticline the top of a 15
 foot section of the ... at the point lb
 ... strike north
 ... This is the
 ... At the Turnbull No. 2
 ... The top of the section here is
 sandy ... correlative with the sandy (Little Bear?)
 ... Downstream the dip decreases
 ... is reached about 12,000 feet
 ... the axis of Turnbull ant. line is drawn about
 midway between point a and the Tower.

Figure 42, Plate 1, drawn on the basis of the above
 is a structural relief
 of 100 feet

It is possible to give a classification and rating
 ... If it is obtained in the test of the Whirlpool
 anticline, geophysical surveys will be warranted to evaluate the
 ... structure

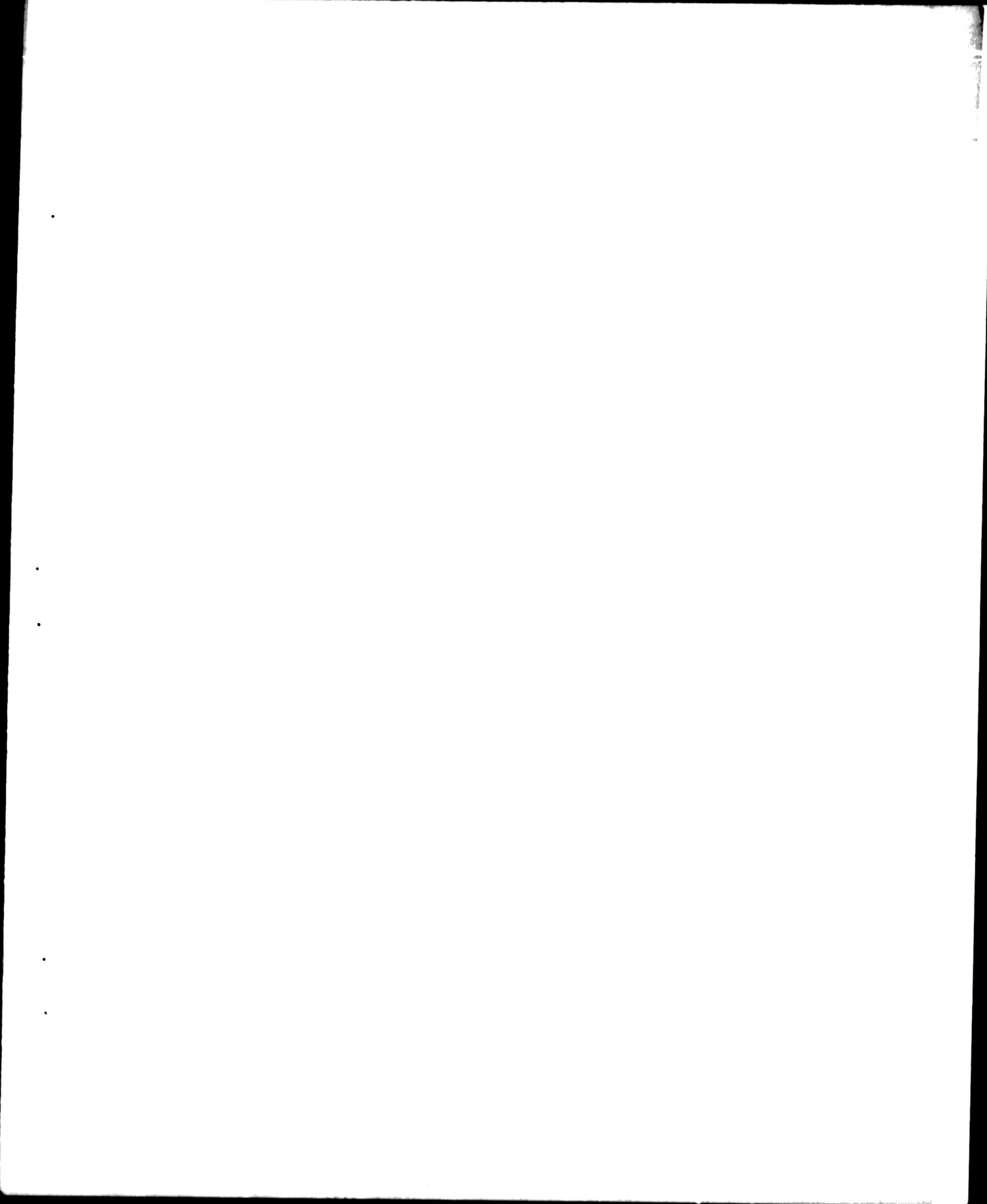
luminous matter with...
limestones in the Imperial range, but the...
reservoir for oil developed from one or both of the...
rocks. The Bear Rock formation is generally regarded as a...
rock, but has yielded only salt or sulphur water in those wells
which have penetrated it to date. Warm sulphur springs issue from
this formation where the Mountain River cuts through Imperial range.
Possibilities of the Silurian are not known in this area, but where
studied in other areas, both source and reservoir rocks are present.

Structurally the area studied is favourable for accumulation
of oil. Whirlpool anticline, which is closed in all directions, and
which has an effective north-south structural relief in excess of
4,000 feet, is the most promising structure. It is possible that
fracturing related to the development of the fold may have added
to the original effective porosity and permeability of the potential
reservoir rocks.

A well location was chosen on the west bank of the river
about 800 feet from the edge of the valley. This location was
marked prior to the traverse up Whirlpool Creek, and as illustrated
on section XI (Plate 2), the structure may be higher further south-
west along the axis. The following formation thicknesses may be
expected at this location:

500' / Surface material
 400' / Bosworth shale and sandstone
 300' / Fort Clark shale
 200' / Beaverside-Satanta limestone
 100' / Bear Lake dolomite and gypsum

last September, the river was very shallow (two to four feet) except along cutbanks. Movement of the equipment could be facilitated by travelling up the frozen river in mid-winter, after which a road could be constructed from the location along the west bank of the river to Sans Soult. Aerial reconnaissance would be satisfactory as to the construction of the road.



structures

Recommendations re Drilling

Structures within the area, and their recommendations for
prospects are as follows:

Class A - Immediate drilling prospects.

1. Whirlpool Anticline - This is a prominent closed structure with Bosworth beds exposed in its axial region, and with well-defined closure both across and along the trend of its axis. The structure should be drilled at least through the Bear Rock, and it may be advisable to test the lower formation, if the results of deepening the Sans Sault well are encouraging.
2. The Link Lake Prospect - Closure along the axis of the Imperial Anticline has been determined in the vicinity of Link Lake. Unless other deep test results indicate that the

2.

anticipation of a large-scale
work on an important prospect, the
was successful.

3.

Creek Prospect). This structure is
the Link Lake prospect, but is
sible. Success is difficult to
warrant a location near Success Creek.

Recommendations re Geophysical Surveys

1. Barry Island - Surface geological work, 1944 gravity survey, did not confirm a
here. Detailed geophysical work is
2. Trail Creek - Surface information re
the gravity survey did not cover creek

...the above oil seep is important. Field work should be commenced in the Mack Hills as soon as possible in the Spring of 1945. The area in the vicinity of the oil seep should be examined in detail, to obtain all possible information relative to the seep, and if possible to make a location for a test hole.

2. Morrow Mountains and Discovery Range - Further work is recommended in the area north of the Mackenzie, from the Morrow mountains to Oil Creek. This survey should attempt to discover any manifestations of structural conditions which would favor the accumulation of oil in this area where the reef limestone is known to be present.

Judith and Carrajou Rock - Re-examination

The exposures on these mountains would determine whether the beds mapped by Barker as "Dka" are actually limestone, stratigraphically equivalent to the lower Judithella.

The following was reported by the gravity party, who were working on the water near the north end of Mackenzie River about one mile below the lower point of Judith Island. If this spot was located, samples of the gas should be collected for analysis.

The Cambrian section on Upper Carrajou River

will be examined for more information relative to the petroliferous beds reported by Jones in 1913.

The geological surveys during the first part of 1914 will doubtless raise other incidental questions requiring checking by field parties.

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FIGURE 1
Bosworth-Fort Creek Contact exposed
on Carcajou River opposite the mouth
of Imperial River



FIGURE 2
Fort Creek shales exposed on Carcajou
River near the axis of Imperial Anticline



FIGURE 3
View looking eastward down
Sammons Creek, showing the
syncline between "Brasshat" (on
the left) and Sammons anticline.



FIGURE 4
Closer view of the steeply-dipping
Beavertail-Ramparts beds on the north
flank of Sammons anticline. Note the
abrupt change in dip just above the
creek.



FIGURE 5
Small thrust fault in basal Fort Creek
beds on Sammons Creek, north flank of
Sammons Anticline.



FIGURE 6
Upper Bear Rock beds exposed near
the axial region of the Imperial
Anticline on Sammons Creek.



FIGURE 7

View looking eastward across Carcajou River at Rainbow Arch. The arch is composed of Beavertail limestone. The small scarp in the distance is in lower Fort Creek Shales



FIGURE 8

Shavetail Creek, west of Carcajou River at Rainbow Arch. Massive Beavertail limestone exposed.



FIGURE 9

View looking northwestward from the north side of Imperial Range across Imperial Lake, showing West Mountain (left center) and East Mountain (right) on the horizon.



FIGURE 10

View looking northward across the Carcajou - Mackenzie basin, from a high point on the south side of Imperial Range, approximately fifteen miles west of Rainbow Arch.



FIGURE 11
View looking northward across the
central part of the Imperial Range.



FIGURE 12
Showing the southward-dipping beds
of the Beavertail-Ramparts formation
on the south side of Imperial Range.



FIGURE 13
View looking westward along the
south side of the Imperial Range
showing southward-dipping beds of
the Beavertail-Ramparts formation.



FIGURE 14
View looking eastward from the
same point as above, showing the
central part of the Range with the
Discovery Range in the far distance.