

BENTONITES OF THE EOCENE DEPOSITS IN THE GOBUSTAN — SHEMAKHA REGION

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The Eocene (Cownian) deposits are spread within the Gobustan-Shemakha synclinorium in the south-east subsidence of the Greater Caucasus and are subdivided into three horizons. Their thickness increases from the north-east from 135 m to the south-west to 500 m. In this direction lithologic composition of rocks varies depending on the facies surrounding dominating in different areas of the sedimentation basin. The Cownian deposits are composed of various facies alternating from the north-west south-eastwards. Non-metalliferous economic minerals (bentonite clays) are numerous among the Cownian deposits. Bentonites were determined in the Gobustan-Shemakha region in the form of laminated deposits, in which they are usually alternated by particoloured and very often by carbonaceous, not oily clays and are confined mainly to the Lower and Middle Cownian deposits. The bentonite clays determined in new fields and manifestations were exposed to technological examination. It was determined that bentonites in Gobustan are of a high (60-62) jelly-forming ability, and according to their plasticity (31.5-48.4) are far ahead of the 1st class. It conforms with mineralogical composition of the examined clays that are mainly represented by montmorillonite. Bentonites in Gobustan in the Greater Caucasus as compared with the Khanlar and Kazakh fields in the Lesser Caucasus are characterized by a high adsorption ability and according to their whitening ability their prevail over gumbrins. Hence these clays can be utilized in the Oil-Refining Industry.