

than that, having arrived at a knowledge of the more promising regions in each case, to institute more comprehensive and exact surveys of these, of such a kind as to enable their resources, whatever they may be, to be utilized. If some of them are at present too remote to be profitably employed, it is still well to know that they exist and lie in reserve until it may be practicable or necessary to draw upon them.

THE BARREN LANDS.

By J. B. TYRRELL, M.A., F.G.S.

Dr. Dawson has asked me to give you a brief account of the explorations carried through the unexplored regions west of the northern part of Hudson Bay. The more southern of the two districts explored has an area of rather more than 60,000 square miles, which is somewhat larger than the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine put together, or than England and Wales.

In 1892 Dr. Selwyn, then director of the Geological Survey, instructed me to explore this country as far as could possibly be done in one season, and Mr. Dowling was detailed to act as my assistant. As the district is large and there were no trading posts in its interior from which supplies could be obtained, it was necessary to divide the party in order to carry sufficient provisions for the journey.

Mr. Dowling proceeded to Edmonton and thence to Athabasca Landing, and from there, with a canoe and small sail-boat carrying supplies for the greater part of the season, he descended Athabasca river, which had previously been surveyed by Mr. Ogilvie, and thence made a compass and boat-log survey of the south shore of Lake Athabasca as far east as Fond du Lac, a little outpost of the Hudson Bay Company.

I proceeded by rail to Prince Albert, thence north-westward to Green Lake, and in two canoes descended Beaver River to Ile à la Crosse Lake, carrying the supplies that would be needed until a union with Mr. Dowling was effected.