

On our trip to Nelson House we descended the Churchill to Nelson lake and went east up a long inlet or branch of Nelson lake to near the Burntwood river, to which we portaged. From Shaving point the river for a distance is flowing in a narrow crooked channel in which the current is about two miles an hour. This soon lessens as the channel broadens out to lake-like dimensions in which are scattered many large islands. The rocks are generally light-gray and whitish gneisses with fragments of dark schist and gneiss held as contorted inclusions. One long string of schist was observed to have been entirely folded back on itself. All these are again cut by flesh-coloured granite in large dykes. The general strike of the rocks seems to be about north-west and south-east. The hills here again become prominent and there are still on some of the islands and in sheltered bays traces of a terrace deposit of sand and clay. A short portage was made across a narrow neck at the centre of a long irregular island stretched across the course of the river. This road was cut through a small poplar grove growing on one of these terraces of clay.

Nelson House, formerly located on this lake, was an important post when the trade for the northern interior passed up the Churchill river. The site was pointed out on a small island at the south end of the lake opposite the channel leading to the portage to Burntwood river. At the present time the Hudson's Bay Company have established an outpost for winter trade on an island just within the narrow strait and therefore not very far from the old post. The rocks on the arm running to the east are light-coloured granites and gray and dark-coloured gneisses striking south-east and north-west. Occasional glimpses are had of the bare hills running along to the south. Several irregular bays branch off from the south side and by making two portages across narrow necks a straight course is formed which is much shorter and is generally followed by canoe parties. Two miles east from the present post the rock is a mass of granite dykes inclosing irregular areas and fragments of dark gneiss striking in several directions. At the first portage the rocks are dark garnetiferous gneisses striking south east and north-west. The second portage is over a clay ridge filling up intervals between rocky ridges of light-coloured granite and gneiss. Both portages are of moderate length—the first 600 yards and the second 200 yards.

The portage to Burntwood river starts from a small stream which flows from the east and enters the southern end of the long lake noted above through a gap in the ridge which bounds its southern shore. It begins in a willow swamp but soon gains a rocky ridge at half a mile

Route taken
to Nelson
House.

Portage to
Burntwood
river.