

narrow mouth, which can be entered with ease and safety by the largest ships at all stages of the tide. On the point at the west side of the entrance of the harbour stands the old Fort Prince of Wales, which is probably the largest ruin in North America. Although occupying a commanding position and mounting about forty large guns, it was surrendered, without firing a shot, to the French Admiral La Pérouse, who destroyed it in 1782.

Along the west coast the rise and fall at spring tides amounts to about 11 or 12 feet, on an average, and is pretty uniform, diminishing somewhat towards the south. It is greatest at the mouth of the Nelson river, where it amounts to about 15 feet. The tides are lower all along the east side of the bay. In Hudson's Strait there is a very good tide, amounting to 38½ feet at Fort Chimo, according to the reports we have received of Acting Staff-Commander J. G. Boulton's reconnaissance during the past summer.

Geologically the basin of Hudson's Bay, excluding the western or Winnipeg division, lies within the great Laurentian area of the Dominion. Silurian rocks resting almost horizontally upon these, form an irregular border along the south-western side of the bay, and in the valleys of some of the rivers they extend inland from 100 to 200 miles. To the south and west of James' Bay, the Silurian are overlaid by Devonian rocks, which here occupy a considerable area. The long chains of islands which fringe the east coast for nearly 800 miles to the northward of Cape Jones, and also the mainland in the vicinity of Richmond Gulf, are composed of igneous and almost unaltered sedimentary rocks, resembling the Nipigon series of the Lake Superior region, which may be of Cambrian age. On the western side of the bay, from Churchill northwards, quartzites and other rocks, which may also belong to the Cambrian system, appear to be largely developed. Valuable minerals may be looked for on this part of the coast. The extensive level region around the south-western side of the bay is overspread with a great sheet of boulder clay, which is generally covered by the modified drift. The rocks of the outlying, or Winnipeg division of the basin, comprise an extensive series, ranging from the Laurentian to the tertiary.

The resources of Hudson's Bay and the country immediately around it are varied and numerous, although as yet few of them are at all developed. The fur trade is the principal and best known business which has hitherto been carried on in these regions, but a large amount of oil, derived from the larger whales, the porpoises, walruses, white bears, and the various species of seals which frequent the northern parts of the bay, has been carried to New England, and small quantities, principally of porpoise and seal oil, have from time to time been brought to London by the Hudson's Bay Company. The other exports from the bay have been as yet but trifling. They embrace whalebone, feathers, quills, castor oil, lead ore, sawn lumber, ivory, tallow, isinglass, and skins