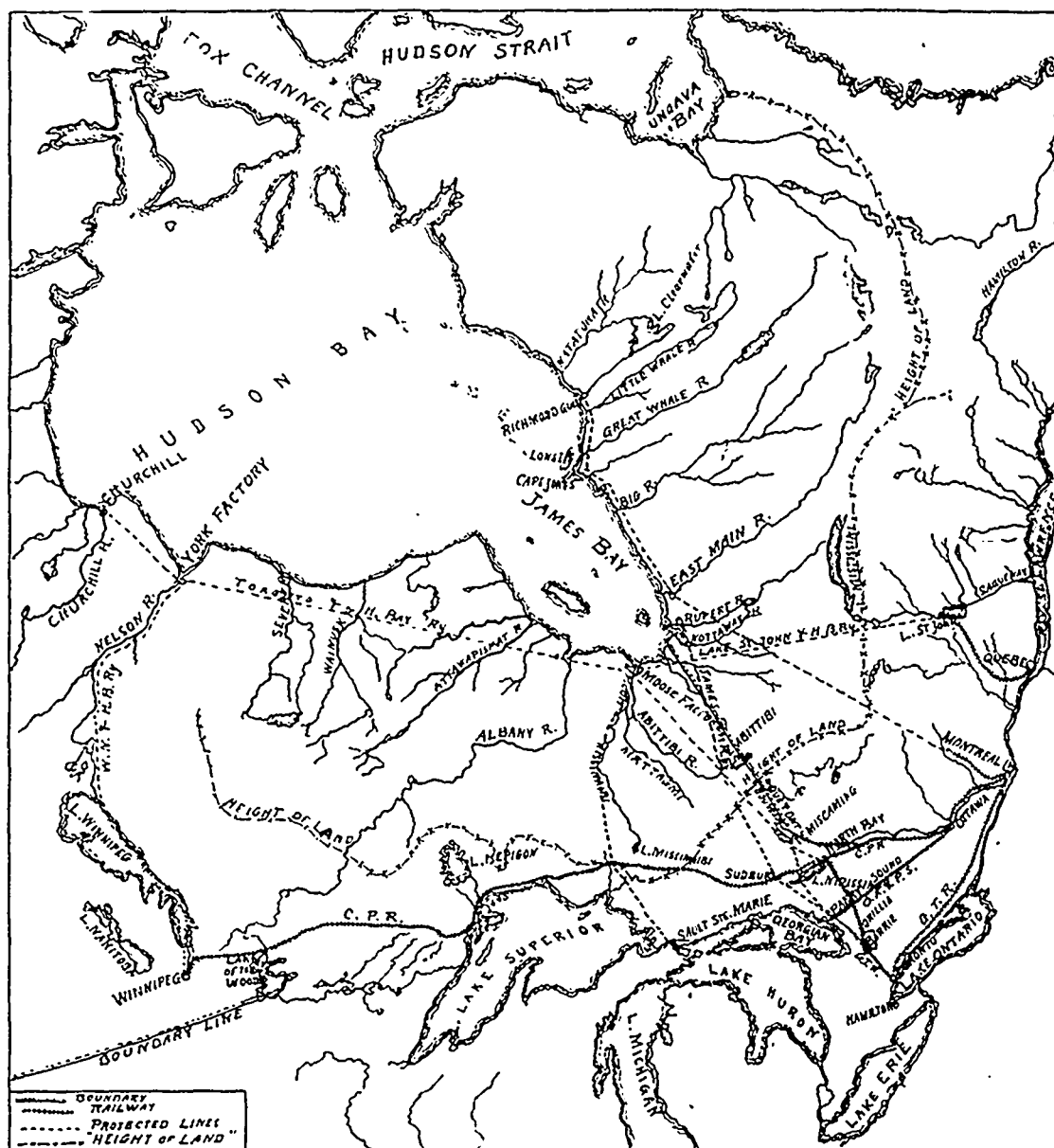


like that of Manitoba. The waters of James' Bay, however, are so shallow (except through one wide channel leading down its centre to Moose Factory), that a boat oar can touch bottom many miles from shore. This vast inland ocean is a basin into which 3,000,000 square miles of land are drained, and so large is the quantity of fresh water pouring down, that the waters of James Bay are only slightly salty. Hudson and James Bays receive the waters of twenty-five large rivers besides those of numbers of smaller rivers, some of which are unknown and unnamed. Notwithstanding the vast area of Hudson Bay (about 500,000 square miles), no part of it is within the Arctic Circle. The resources of this vast region are

climatic features of the great inland basin as to discourage inquiry. Hence it is that many intelligent Canadians imagine that the waters of Hudson Bay form one immense ice field during the greater part of the year. As a matter of fact, Hudson Bay itself is never frozen over any more than Lake Huron or Lake Superior. Navigation can be carried on throughout Hudson Bay proper every day in the year. It is only in Hudson Strait that difficulty from ice is encountered. In James Bay, owing to the shallowness and freshness of the water, ice is formed during the winter, but this ice with the river ice breaks up in April and May at about the same date that the St. Lawrence River is free from ice. The trouble



only now being faintly realized. We now wonder that the natural fertility of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and the great mineral resources of British Columbia and the Yukon, remained so long unknown, or, at least, unappreciated by the people of the older Provinces. In a few years when the great valley of James and Hudson Bays shall have been opened up by railways, we will wonder still more that it, too, should have remained so long locked up. The reports of early travelers and explorers, who, in order to make interesting stories, have exaggerated the character of the climate, have no doubt been one of the stumbling blocks in the way of opening up our great northern land. The climate and surroundings of Hudson Straits also have been so confounded with the

in navigating Hudson Strait is not from locally formed ice, but the great polar ice fields that are annually broken up and drift down Davis Strait and Fox Channel, where quantities of it are deflected by the inset of the Atlantic tides and turned into the Strait. The length of time when the Hudson Straits are navigable, varies according to different navigators and explorers all the way from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  months in the year. Notwithstanding the pessimistic views of many regarding these Northern waters, the fact remains that though Hudson Bay and Strait have been navigated continuously since 1668, when the Hudson Bay Company was formed, the shipping disasters have been remarkably few, so few indeed that for the last half century the Hudson Bay Company has ceased to pay insurance on