

to be 5,400 feet in height. Sir William continues: "From Matchedash Bay the east and north shores of Lake Huron complete the southern boundary, which terminates at Shebabahnahning."

At this point, now known as Killarney, the site of a thriving fishing industry and a port of call for the Lake Superior steamers, is the commencement of the "Huronian Series," described page 52, chapter iv, of the *Geology of Canada*, 1863."

For the purpose of this description, however, the Huronian system is included in the Northern Area, and the southern boundary of the latter must therefore be described as prolonged westward from Killarney along the shore north of the Manitoulin Islands, up the St. Mary River, and around the whole of the eastern and northern shores of Lake Superior to the vicinity of Port Arthur on Thunder Bay, and thence in a south-westerly direction to about fifty miles east of Otter Tail Lake at the source of the Red River. Here the crystalline rocks pass beneath the newer formations. The margin of these then forms the entire western boundary. This follows the east side of the Red River valley, keeping the east shore of Lake Winnipeg to its outlet, and thence in a nearly direct north-west course to the mouth of the Mackenzie in the Arctic Ocean. Much of this boundary is, however, deeply covered with drift which for many miles conceals the junction of the subjacent formations.

Except some of the higher peaks of the Laurentides in proximity to the shores of the Gulf, and perhaps some others in the Labrador Peninsula there are few points in all this vast area which attain two thousand feet in height, while the average elevation is probably less than 1,000 feet above the sea. It is pre-eminently a region of waterways. Lakes and rivers, tributary to one or other of the four great river systems of the Continent—the Mississippi, the Mackenzie, the Nelson and the St. Lawrence—form routes through every part of the region. A traveller starting in a canoe from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, can traverse the continent to the Arctic Ocean at the mouth of the Mackenzie; he can reach various points on Hudson's Bay; or, by the Red River and the Mississippi he can paddle on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

While in every part of this Eastern section of the Dominion the surface of the country has been greatly modified and unified by the superficial agencies of the glacial and later periods, still, the characters impressed on the ancient foundations of archæan and palæozoic rocks, by deep seated and long continued dynamic action are still apparent, and it is these latter which have so plainly individualised the three areas of the Eastern section of Canada, of which the main physical features have now been sketched.