

eskers, etc., and in this way a new set of topographic forms was superimposed on the bedrock beneath.

The deposition of these materials had, indirectly, another important topographic effect; for it completed the work of glacial denudation in disorganizing the pre-Glacial drainage of the plateau and aided materially in the development of the strikingly youthful system of drainage which characterizes the plateau at present. The deposition of the glacial drift irregularly over an uneven glaciated rock surface resulted in the formation of innumerable undrained, partly rock-rimmed, partly drift-rimmed depressions in which water accumulated to form lakes. As the depressions became filled the water spilled over the margins at their lowest points to tumble downward to basins below and thus an "accidental" drainage of multitudinous lakes and precipitous watercourses was formed.

Post-Glacial Lacustrine Epoch.

In many parts of the Laurentian plateau, the glacial drift is overlain by wide areas of stratified clay and sand which are believed to have been deposited from large lakes which covered these districts during the retreat of the continental glaciers. In order, however, to provide basins for lakes extending over these large areas, it has been necessary to assume that the lakes were hemmed in, in part, by the fronts of the continental ice-sheets, an hypothesis which would also account for the disappearance of the lakes when the ice barrier was withdrawn.

Numerous post-Glacial lakes of this type were formed during the various stages of the glacial retreat from the St. Lawrence, Nelson, and Saskatchewan basins, also, at a later stage in the retreat, in the southern part of James Bay basin.

Marine . . .

In the lower part of the St. Lawrence basin and on the shores of Hudson bay¹, marine sediments—chiefly stratified clay and sand—rest on the glacial drift and overlap the plateau up to elevations of approximately 700 feet above sea-level in the St. Lawrence basin and 500 feet above sea-level in the James Bay region. It is believed that these sediments were laid down at the close of or immediately following the glacial epoch.

The deposition of these post-glacial sediments was the last event of importance in the physiographic history of the plateau, denudation since that time consisting merely of a slight amount of stream dissection in unconsolidated glacial and post-Glacial deposits.

¹ Bell, R., *Ann. Jour. Sc.*, vol. 1, 1896, pp. 219-228.

Low, A. P., *Bull. Geol. Soc. Am.*, vol. 4, 1893, pp. 419-423.