

Having crossed the height-of-land, a north-west course was followed sixty miles through three large lakes to Lake Mistassini. This great lake was navigated for sixty miles to the Rupert River, its outlet on the north-west side. This portion of the route had been previously explored from Lake St. John to Mistassini by J. Richardson in 1870* and Lake Mistassini by myself in 1885.*

The Rupert River, a short distance below where it leaves Lake Mistassini, is divided into two nearly equal channels by a large island; these channels do not again unite for nearly one hundred miles. Our way followed the east channel in a northerly direction for fifty miles, when the stream makes a sharp bend to the westward, and continues in that direction until it joins the other channel. The Rupert River was left at this bend and passing still northward for fifty miles, over a portage route of small lakes and streams connected by long portages, either of a swampy character or formed of packed boulders, the East Main River was reached about three hundred miles above its mouth. This stream was ascended about thirty miles to where it was joined by the Tichagami branch, and then turning westward its course was followed to its mouth on the east side of James Bay. The return trip was made by skirting James Bay to the mouth of the Moose River, which flows into its south-west corner. The Moose River was ascended to Missinaibic Station on the C. P. Ry., and so Ottawa was reached in October.

The results of this exploration, besides the survey of the route from Lake Mistassini to James Bay, include the discovery of large areas of Huronian rocks along the East Main River, and as these rocks have a close resemblance to the gold-bearing rocks of the Lake of the Woods area, the precious metal will probably be found in them. Other important observations on the climate, forests, plants, animals and fisheries were made, which go to show that this northern region is not nearly so barren

*Geol. Surv. Canada, Report 1870-71. †Geol. Surv. Canada, Report 1885.