

In the southern part of the region explored, the height-of-land dividing the waters of the St. Lawrence from those flowing to Hudson bay runs in an easterly direction, passing within two miles of the northern extremity of Grand Lake Victoria. From this divide we descended a stream, small at first, but increasing rapidly, with a general course due north, astronomically, for a distance of about 150 miles in a straight line. At the end of this distance it terminates in a lake called Mattagami, which lies east and west, or at right angles to the course of the river, and has a length of twenty-five miles, with a large bay or arm extending to the northward.

In 1887 this stream was followed for upwards of sixty miles downward from its source and a track-survey of it made by my assistant of that year, the late Mr. A. S. Cochrane. At that period and up to the time of my tracing the stream to the sea, it was supposed to be identical with or to form part of a river which flows into Hannah bay at the head of James bay, and it had no recognized name of its own.

In 1894 Mr. H. O'Sullivan, inspector of surveys of the province of Quebec, made a track-survey of the course of this river for about thirty miles beyond the point which had been reached by Mr. Cochrane in 1887. My own work of 1895 included a new track-survey and a geological examination of the portion which had been gone over by Mr. Cochrane, and beyond this the work was continued as a careful micrometer and compass survey of all the rest of the river.

In 1896 I employed five voyageurs, and had Mr. R. W. Brock and Mr. J. M. Bell as assistants. At the start, we followed the same route as I had taken in the previous year and used the main river as a surveyed base. Mr. Brock ascended and mapped three of its branches and followed one of them, which comes from the east side and is called the Migiskan, and one of its tributaries, up to a local watershed which he crossed and thence descended another stream to Lake Waswanipi. Meantime I devoted myself to making track-surveys and geological examinations of nine other branches of the main river.

After these operations, Mr. Brock proceeded eastward from Lake Waswanipi to Lake Mistassini by way of a large stream which we recognized at the time under the name of Waswanipi river, while I made a track-survey and a geological reconnaissance of a chain of lakes and rivers northward to the Rupert river at Namiska lake. The general course of this chain runs due north from the south end of