

Amisk-Athapapuskow Lake District.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

Following the discovery of the gold deposits of northern Ontario, in basic rocks of Pre-Cambrian age, the attention of prospectors turned to areas of similar rocks in other parts of northern Canada. Several of these were known to exist in the territories lately added to Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and in August, 1913, investigations resulted in the discovery of free gold veins occurring at Amisk lake just west of the boundary line between the provinces. The report which follows is preliminary, mainly economic in character, and for the sake of brevity microscopical descriptions and discussions of origins and other theoretical matter have been purposely omitted.

FIELD WORK AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In the summer of 1914, geological mapping of the country in the vicinity of Amisk lake was begun and extended eastward along the edge of the Palaeozoic rocks towards the Hudson Bay railway. Details were filled in during the field seasons of 1915 and 1916 and the map accompanying this report is a compilation covering a part of the country examined in these three seasons. A new geographical map of this area was necessary to form a base for geological work of a more detailed character than that of the early explorations and to show the large number of waterways navigable by canoes. The mapping was done by means of the Rochon micrometer telescope and prismatic compass with the 2nd meridian as control. Closed traverses were made wherever possible and the closing errors adjusted. Inland traverses to fix geological boundaries were made by pace-and-compass methods, and small lakes encountered in these traverses were sketched by taking compass bearings on prominent points and estimating the distances. It was impossible to map all the lakes in the district, but most of those that are of any size and practically all that are used as canoe routes were traversed or sketched in connexion with the inland work. Plans of surveyed claims and the positions of lakes crossed by the 2nd meridian have been obtained from the Topographical Surveys branch of the Department of the Interior. The map of Flinflon lake is from a stadia traverse by F. H. Kitto, D.L.S., of that department.