

tary of the Peribonka River, Pletipi Lake, at the head of the Outardes River, the Manicuagan lakes, on the headwaters of the river of the same name ; all sending their waters into the St. Lawrence. Discharging into the Atlantic are Winokapau, Petitsikapau, Ashuanipi and Attikonak lakes on the Hamilton River, and Grand Lake on the Northwest River, which also drains Lake Michikamau. On the rivers discharging northward, Lake Kaniapiskau is the only one yet partly explored, but reference to the map will show a number of large lakes on the various tributaries of the Koksoak and George rivers, which have been located from information derived from Hudson's Bay Company employees and Indians.

Western watershed

On the western watershed, Clearwater Lake is one of several large lakes lying in an area between the sources of the Stillwater branch of the Koksoak River, and the Nastapoka, Clearwater, Little and Great Whale rivers flowing into Hudson Bay ; all of which rise and flow through a number of large unexplored lakes.

Lake Nichicun is near the headwaters of the Big River and is drained by that stream. The Mistassini lakes discharge into the Rupert River, while the Nottoway River, which discharges into the southern part of James Bay, drains, among others, lakes Waswanipi and Chibougamoo.

Lakeless area.

Besides the lakes mentioned, there are hundreds having a surface area between 20 square miles and 100 square miles, while smaller lakes are numberless. The only portion of Labrador not thickly covered with lakes, is the low country extending inland for about 100 miles from the east coast of James Bay. This area has been covered with a deep mantle of marine sands and clays, which has filled up the inequalities of the surface, and prevented the formation of lakes ; it is covered instead by a net-work of small streams, with deep channels cut out of the stratified drift.

Formation of lakes.

The lakes, except the largest, are usually confined in the shallow valleys between low rocky ridges, by barriers of drift, and in consequence their depth is not great, seldom exceeding fifty feet, while many of them are under twenty feet deep. Mistassini and Michikamau lakes, occupying ancient basins, in which Cambrian rocks were deposited, are among the exceptions, the former having a depth of over 400 feet, while that of the latter is said, by the Indians to exceed 250 feet. Lake Winokapau, in the valley of the Hamilton River, and Lake Mouchalagan on the Manicuagan River, are other exceptions, the former being over 400 feet deep, and the latter 650 feet deep, but, as will be explained further on, these and Grand Lake, on the Northwest River, differ from the ordinary lakes in their manner of formation.