

In 1896 I was assisted by Mr. G. A. Young and started with canoes from Missinaibi Station on the C. P. Ry., from there we descended the Moose River to James Bay where a Collingwood fishing boat, the property of the Department, was fitted up, and in it we sailed 450 miles along the east coast of Hudson Bay to Richmond Gulf. Leaving the boat here we passed inland with canoes and ascended streams flowing from the eastward some 75 miles to Clearwater Lake. This lake was thoroughly explored, and was found to be about 35 miles long by 18 miles across in its widest part; it is abundantly stocked with large trout and whitefish. Continuing eastward by a short portage route Seal Lake was reached, and was followed 35 miles to its east end, which is only a few miles from the watershed dividing the waters flowing into Hudson Bay from those emptying into Ungava Bay. Having crossed the heights-of-land we reached the head of the Stillwater or western branch of the Koksoak River, and descended it 350 miles to its mouth. From Fort Chimo passage was taken in the "Erik" to Rigolet where a change was made to a schooner bound for Quebec, and so Ottawa was reached on October 10th. Among the practical results of this exploration was the discovery of an extension of the Cambrian rocks with their immense beds of valuable iron ore which were found for upwards of 30 miles along the Stillwater River; the elevation of the watershed was found to be about 900 feet above sea level, or much lower than at any other place where it has been crossed.

The results of the explorations of the past five seasons embrace the survey of the East Main, Hamilton and Koksoak rivers and portions of the Rupert, Big, Romaine, St. John and Manicouagan rivers in all some 3,500 miles; the limits of the forest areas and of the different trees composing it have been approximately mapped, and sufficient data has been collected to give a good general idea of the climate and natural resources of the interior of the peninsula. The interior, formerly supposed to be chiefly occupied by barren Laurentian granite and gneiss has been found to contain a large area of iron bearing Cambrian rocks and in other places rocks of the metal-bearing Huronian system have been discovered, while the Laurentian areas which occupy the greater part of the interior, represent all the different rocks found in that series elsewhere.