

Superior country, described, under the District of the Upper Lakes, in the geology of Ontario. It includes all the country lying between the boundary-line of Ontario (not yet definitely settled), and the Winnipeg River and Lake, with probably a wider extension of area towards the north-west. It is occupied essentially by Laurentian strata of micaceous and syenitic gneiss, quartzite, &c., with overlying belts, in various places, of micaceous, chloritic, and hornblendic slates, and slaty conglomerates, of Huronian age. These Crystalline strata form the surface in many parts, but in others, and especially on the south-east shore of Lake Winnipeg, they are covered by thick deposits of Glacial and Post-Glacial clays and sands. The average altitude of the district is about 1,200 feet—the ground rising in places to 1,500 or 1,600 feet above the sea, but descending to 710 feet at Lake Winnipeg.

(2.) *The Eastern Prairie, or Lake Manitoba District.*—This subdivision comprises the country immediately west of Lake Winnipeg, Deer Lake, Lake Arthabasca, &c., and the entire area around Lake Manitoba, Lake Winnipegosis and connected series of lakes, with the valley of Red River and the lower courses of the Assiniboine, Swan River, and Saskatchewan. It forms essentially the "First Prairie Steppe" of the north-west, and occupies an elevation of about 750 or 800 feet above the sea, stretching to the base of the second prairie along the line of hilly country defined by the Pembina, Riding, Duck, and Porcupine Mountains and the Basquia Hills. It is underlaid in its more eastern portion (including Fort Garry, the lower course of Red River, the western shores of Lake Winnipeg, Cedar Lake, &c.) by Lower Silurian strata belonging essentially, if not wholly, to the Trenton formation, and consisting chiefly of dolomitic limestones in horizontal or nearly horizontal beds. The more western and north-western portion (including Lake Manitoba, Dauphin Lake, the west shore of Lake Winnipegosis, Swan Lake, &c.) is underlaid by Devonian strata, consisting most probably of the higher portion of the series. Numerous brine springs, and, here and there, outflows of petroleum, appear to mark the Devonian area generally; but the surface of the district is almost entirely covered by Glacial and Post-Glacial deposits, mostly in the form of stratified marly clays.

(3.) *The Central Prairie District.*—This is essentially a prairie region, but interspersed with patches of woodland, and forming on the whole a rolling and often hilly country. It comprises the second