

THE ARCTIC BASIN

is bounded on the west by the Rocky Mountains which, from a point in the vicinity of Jasper House, form a distinct and well-defined boundary line northward, as far as the Arctic Sea.

An imaginary line from the same point (Jasper House), northeasterly to Lake Wollaston, and past it to the edge of the Silurian Basin of Hudson's Bay, will sufficiently mark the southern boundary, while thence to the head of Chesterfield Inlet, the eastern line of demarcation may be readily traced on any good map.

The Arctic Basin is drained by three great rivers: the Mackenzie (which, by its main feeder the Peace, also draws off a vast quantity of water from the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains), the Coppermine, and Back's Great Fish River.

Nine-tenths of this great basin is a barren and inhospitable wilderness; the eastern and smaller half lying on the granite rocks of the Laurentian system; the south-western extremity, however, which rests upon a more recent formation, presents the finest "*bit*" of territory in the British North-West. Of this comparatively small section watered by the Peace and Smoky rivers, I shall speak anon; in the meantime we shall proceed to a brief description of

HUDSON'S BAY.

The basin of this great inland sea, from Fort Churchill round to its southern extremity, and north again to the East Main river, is of Silurian formation, and the low margin, which is a distinct characteristic of the coast line within the limits just described, is covered with vast deposits of drift and boulders.

Northwards from the East Main river the formation changes, and the primary rocks of the Laurentian system, thence to the Hudson's Straits, present a frowning barrier to the icy waters of the northern sea.

Of that portion of the territories comprised within the Labrador Peninsula, and drained by rivers flowing westward into Hudson's Bay, also of the country adjacent to, and situated south and west of James' Bay, watered by the Abitibi, Moose, and Albany rivers, little can be said, for in general the land is