

IV.—*Brief Outlines of the most famous Journeys in and about Rupert's Land.*

By GEORGE BRYCE, LL.D., Manitoba College, Winnipeg.

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A.

Different Limits Assigned to Rupert's Land.

(1) Sir George Simpson, in his evidence before the committee of the Imperial Parliament, claimed that Rupert's Land extended from Hudson Bay to the Rocky Mountains.

(2) It was claimed by others that the western boundary of Rupert's Land was a line from Deer Lake south, about 102° 30' W. longitude.

(3) Probably the most generally accepted definition of Rupert's Land, based upon the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company (1670), is the region whose waters flow into Hudson Bay, except so far as the old Province of Quebec entered this territory on its southern side.

The country lying to the west and north of Rupert's Land was divided into sections:—

(a) The territory drained by the rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean, including therein the region of the Athabasca, Mackenzie and Coppermine Rivers.

(b) All the country lying on the west of the Rocky Mountains, between the Russian territory on the north and Columbia River on the south.

The wide expanse of country lying west and north of Rupert's Land was technically known as the "Indian Territories," and over this an exclusive fur-trading license was given to the Hudson's Bay Company by the Imperial Parliament, in 1821, for twenty-one years. This license was again renewed in 1838. The country lying to the west of the Rocky Mountains, reached by the Peace River, was, at times, called New Caledonia.

B.

Configuration of Rupert's Land and Indian Territories Favorable for Voyaging.

Two main arteries lead from Hudson Bay to the interior:—

(1) The most northerly of these is by way of Churchill River, at the mouth of which stood, in early days, Prince of Wales Fort, with massive stone walls and fortifications. Down this river, which was also called English River, the Hudson's Bay Company, for many years, received the trade of the interior without even leaving the coast, the

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