

V.—*The Cordilleran or British Columbia Region*, which extends across the Rocky mountain region of Canada, from the foot-hills to the Pacific ocean, and includes the great Cordilleran belt from the 49th parallel to Alaska.

The following table gives the list of geological systems recognized in Canada:

Quaternary.
Tertiary.
Cretaceous.
Jurassic.
Triassic.
Permian.
Carboniferous.
Devonian.
Silurian.
Ordovician.
Cambrian.
Huronian.
Laurentian.

In dealing with the classification of the various formations of Canada included in the above systems and occurring in the five regions afore-mentioned the writer has been compelled to affix provisional formational names to various series of sedimentary rocks which have not as yet received any designation. He deems it, however, a case of dire necessity in this case, inasmuch as it is impossible to classify geological horizons or sub-divisions in the strata of the earth's crust, as developed in Canada, according to the latest and most approved methods and in keeping with the classification of other geological formations in the same systems in other parts of the world, without formational names. There are horizons and formations in Canada which are known only in terms descriptive of their lithological or palæontological characters, combined in some cases with their economic relations, and these are not as a rule acceptable as geological terms of value in nomenclature.

THE LAURENTIAN SYSTEM.

Of the three million six hundred and sixteen thousand nine hundred and eighty square miles of territory in British North America, nearly two-thirds of this area belongs to the Archæan, which term is used to embrace both the rocks of the Laurentian and those of the Huronian systems. The Laurentian constitutes the fundamental or older series in the Archæan.