

THE HURONIAN OF THE MOOSE RIVER BASIN

The Moose River, entering the south-west angle of James Bay, drains an immense triangular area of which the apex is at the river's mouth and the base stretches from above Lake Abitibi to a point west of Kabinakagami Lake. Each side of this triangle is approximately 250 miles, and, allowing for sinuosities in the boundary, its area cannot be less than 30,000 square miles.

Explorations in this extensive region have not yet put us in possession of the minute information desirable. In 1865 Dr. Robert Bell made certain explorations which are described in his report to the Geological Survey of Canada in 1875, and at a later date also he was employed for several years in this district. The results of his investigations may be found in the Report of the Geological Survey of Canada for 1880-2. Mr. E. B. Borron likewise made several journeys, particularly in 1881 and 1882, and reported on his explorations to the Ontario Government.¹ In 1896 Mr. Alexander Niven was commissioned to lay down the boundary line between Nipissing and Algoma, which he extended for one hundred and twenty miles; he was accompanied by Mr. E. Burwash, whose report on the geology of the region traversed appears in the Report of the Bureau of Mines of Ontario for 1896. This boundary line was continued to the Moose River in 1898, and a base line carried westward from the 120th post in 1899. The writer accompanied the two latter expeditions as geologist, and his reports appear in the Reports of the Bureau of Mines for these years.

With the exception of the above mentioned reports, there is very little available literature bearing on the region in question. The southern and major portion of its triangular area consists of Laurentian gneisses and granites crossed by several bands of Huronian rocks. The upper part presents limestones, dolomites and shales of Devonian and possibly also of Silurian age. The present paper deals with the Huronian alone, and more particularly with the petrography of the series as here exemplified. For information as to the general geology and topography, economic resources and other points, reference must be made to the reports above cited.

¹ Report of E. B. Borron, Stipendiary Magistrate, on Part of the Basin of Hudson's Bay. Toronto, 1883.