

from the axis of these rocks to the east or north-east were first observed, and appear in abundance, at a height of from 2300 to 2500 feet, near the D'Echafaud River, in latitude $55^{\circ} 45'$, longitude 120° .

East of this point the wide Peace-River plateau extends, and the general character of the country in regard to its superficial deposits is so uniform that it is unnecessary to particularize localities in describing it. Its surface is so thickly covered that exposures of the underlying rocks are, as a rule, found only in the larger river-valleys. The lower layers of the drift appear to represent the Boulder-clay of the great plains to the south and east and the northern part of British Columbia to the west; they are sandy clays with boulders and stones in abundance, and their upper surface is somewhat irregular, rising in some places in ridges or broad gentle elevations, which stand out above the newer silty deposits in which a great part of the surface is enveloped. The silt is generally pale grey or fawn-colour, and while in places passing almost into clay, becomes occasionally a fine sand. This sandy covering of the surface is found especially at the southern rim of the Peace basin, near the Athabasca, where the plateau attains an elevation of about 3300 feet (long. 117°). The ridges at this elevation are still thickly strewn with Laurentian boulders.

In regard to the material of the drift, the stones and boulders scattered over this great district are, in part, those of the Rocky Mountains to the west, in part derived from the Laurentian axis to the north and east. The fragments from the first-mentioned source are generally of quartzite; the limestone and other softer rocks accompanying these in abundance in the vicinity of the mountains, decreasing rapidly as we recede from them. The Laurentian material is chiefly gneiss and granite of the usual well-marked types. Between the Athabasca and Saskatchewan (long. $113^{\circ} 30'$) the plateau attains a maximum elevation of about 2300 feet, and Laurentian boulders are everywhere exceedingly numerous.

Additional Notes on the Coast.

In the fiords penetrating the coast of the mainland of British Columbia, and channels intervening between the numerous islands lying off it, from the southern extremity of Alaska to the north end of Vancouver Island, marks of the passage of glacier-ice are to be found wherever the rocks are unweathered (see Map, p. 278). These marks are generally in strict conformity with the directions of the passages, which it is evident must have been filled with ice moving in the main seaward from the coast-ranges, in which many smaller glaciers are still found. Whether at any time the supply of ice has been so great as to form a confluent mass flowing toward the sea, at right angles to the general direction of the coast mountains, and without regard to the smaller features of the surface, has not been definitely ascertained; but it is highly probable that this has happened. The outer islands of the Shore archipelago have scarcely been examined; but the little group called the Gnarled Islands (lat. $54^{\circ} 39'$), on the south side of the strait, thirteen miles wide, which lies between