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GEOLOGY OF THE NIPIGON BASIN, ONTARIO.

BY

ALFRED W. G. WILSON

INTRODUCTION.

Location and Area.

The area shown on map No. 1090, which accompanies this memoir, comprises about 6,912 square miles of territory. The central position of Lake Nipigon (which occupies about 1,769 square miles when the islands are included), as it appears on the present map, made it advisable to issue on one sheet the two regular map sheets, Nos. 11 and 17, of the Northwestern Ontario series, of which it is composed.

The Nipigon river, the outlet stream from Lake Nipigon, and the largest river flowing into Lake Superior, is crossed by the Canadian Pacific railway 65.5 miles east of Port Arthur on Thunder bay. The main line of the Canadian Pacific railway lies immediately south of the area included within this map sheet, the nearest point being the Nipigon River crossing, four and one-half miles south of the southern edge of the sheet. The projected line of the National Transcontinental railway crosses the northern portion of the area just north of Lake Nipigon, and construction work is now in progress.

In subsequent paragraphs reference is made to the early explorations of parts of this area. Active field work for the preparation of these map sheets began with the work of McInnes and Dowling in 1894. Mr. Dowling continued the work in 1898; in 1901 Parks conducted explorations in the southeast quarter of the area, and in 1902 in the northeast quarter. In 1901 the present writer carried out exploration work in the southwest quarter. In 1902 Mr. McInnes was working on the northwest quarter of the area. In 1908 the present writer, with Mr. Robert Harvie, jr., as assistant, was commissioned to complete the field work for the two map sheets, to