

Yukon and northern British Columbia, was apparently subjected, as already indicated, to a long period of subaerial erosion which continued until a plane-like surface resulted, having an elevation slightly above that of the sea, and with only occasional residuary peaks and ridges rising above the general level; from the attainment of these results it may be inferred that the land during this time remained in a state of almost perfect stability. This erosion-cycle was terminated by a gradual uplift of the Yukon Plateau region together with adjoining portions, at least, of the Coast range. Erosive processes thus received new life and energy, causing the streams to rapidly entrench their channels in the elevated terrane. The effects of stream action, in this respect, were later accentuated by glaciation. The main ice-masses occupied the master-depressions such as that of Taku arm, and both straightened and planed their slopes, and widened and lowered their floors. The valleys thus produced were wide, deep, and steep-sided. The ice also acted in a constructional capacity and caused the valleys, in places, to become floored to considerable depths with glacial silts, sands, gravels, boulder-chyrs, etc. The formation of such lakes as Taku arm and Tutshi lake, which now occupy the portions of the valley-bottoms that were last occupied by these glaciers, is owing to the fact that the ice retreated up the valleys so rapidly that only the lower portions were filled with glacial debris, causing reversed slopes and effectually impounding the water above.

In the present plateau-region the only representatives of the former glaciers are the few small ice-masses that still occupy occasional cirques; so that in the uplands nivation¹ or snow-drift action has been at work and has tended to smooth over inequalities in the land surface rather than accentuate them. In the Coast Range region, however, on account of its higher altitudes, the ice is still abundantly present and cirques on opposite sides of the ridges and around the summits are being excavated downward and back-

¹ Nivation in its different phases, relations, results, etc., is discussed in the two following articles:—

Mathes, F. E., "Glacial sculpture of the Bighorn Mts.," Wyo., U.S. Geol. Surv., 21st Ann. Rep., Pt. II, 1902, pp. 173-190.

Hobbs, W. M., "Cycle of mountain glaciation," Geog. Jour., Feb., 1910, pp. 147-163.