

certain passes does not reproduce the conditions of our continental ice sheets spreading unhampered over vast plains.

Alpine glaciers respond to climatic changes, as shown in their rhythmic advance and retreat in modern times, but in high mountains they do not disappear completely in warm periods, since by merely shrinking to higher elevations glacial conditions are retained, though on a smaller scale. From his point of view the higher Rockies and Selkirks of the west are still in the Glacial Period, and the same is true of the Alps. But when milder conditions prevail in the area occupied by a continental ice sheet with no mountain range to retreat to, it is merely a question of time when the ice must totally disappear and the thawing will probably go on somewhat rapidly. The Malaspina glacier, which is a piedmont ice sheet no longer sufficiently fed by its tributary glaciers descending from the snow fields of Mt. St. Elias, is very rapidly disappearing even under the chill sunshine of latitude 60° . If the remnant of the Labradorian ice sheet wasted at a similar rate under latitude 53° with a warmer climate than the present, it could only have lasted a few hundred years and must have melted completely long before the middle of the interglacial period of the Toronto Formation.

The general result of the inquiry into Canadian interglacial deposits supports the view that our eastern Pleistocene included several Glacial periods completely separated by warm periods free from glacier ice. We should no longer speak of the Ice Age as a unit, since it is really a complex series of geological periods.

