

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HUDSON BAY EXPEDITION

THE University of Illinois geological expedition into the Hudson Bay region during the past summer, which was made possible by a grant from the graduate school, has been completed recently with very successful results.

The primary purpose of the expedition was to make a detailed study of the succession of Paleozoic rocks comprising the great sedimentary outlier west of Hudson Bay, with the object of determining just what formations are represented in that region: a fact of first importance in interpreting the oceanic connections of the ancient epicontinental seas, and the paleogeography of the continent during early Paleozoic time.

Inasmuch as the only source of supplies and provisions throughout a large part of the region is the various fur-trading posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, arrangements were made to outfit through this company at The Pas, Manitoba. The start was made from that place on July 4, the party going as far as Armstrong lake on the new Hudson Bay railroad, and then proceeding down the Nelson river by canoes to the Bay.

Over nearly the entire region bordering Hudson Bay on the west the land is a great muskeg, or swamp, covered with a blanket of peat varying from a few inches up to ten feet or more in thickness. Owing to this fact the country back from the streams is almost impassable in the summer, there being no overland trails except portage paths around rapids in the rivers, or across the low divides from one river system to another. Hence, the party was obliged to travel entirely by canoes.

The exposures of the sedimentary rocks in this region are practically confined to the banks of the larger rivers which, almost without exception, flow across the belt of sedimentary strata. These rocks dip in general towards the bay at a rate a little greater than the fall of the streams, thereby making it possible to obtain a practically complete section of the strata outcropping along each stream. The plan of work was to follow up a

river, portage across the divide into the adjacent river basin, follow that down to the Bay, proceed along the coast of the Bay to the next important river, ascend this, cross the divide and follow down the next, etc. In this manner a detailed section of the rocks and a careful collection of fossils were obtained from the Ordovician strata exposed along the Nelson, and Shamattama rivers; from the Silurian rocks along the Severn, Winisk, and Ekwana rivers, and from the Devonian beds, at the south end of the Bay, along the Moose and Abitibi rivers.

Altogether about eighteen hundred miles were traversed by canoes on this expedition, the party reaching the railroad at Cochrane, Ontario, on September 18.

A detailed report containing the scientific results of the expedition will be published as soon as the fossil collections which it was necessary to leave for shipment at the various posts of the Hudson's Bay Company reach the university and can be carefully studied.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CLEVELAND ABBE, the distinguished meteorologist, died on October 28, at his home in Chevy Chase, Washington, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

DR. WILHELM VON WALDEYER, professor of anatomy in the University of Berlin, has been raised to hereditary nobility on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

A FINELY illustrated volume, containing thirty-six articles and extending to over eight hundred pages, has been dedicated to Dr. Erik Müller, professor of anatomy at the University of Stockholm, by his friends and pupils on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

PROFESSOR C. W. BALKE, formerly at the head of the division of general chemistry and qualitative analysis at the University of Illinois, is organizing a research laboratory for the Pfannstiehl Company in North Chicago