

the Dease, Liard and Frances Rivers to Frances Lake ; thence crossed overland to the upper part of the Pelly branch of the Yukon, descending it to its confluence with the Lewis, eventually reaching the coast from that place by Mr. Ogilvie's route, previously described.

544. Mr. Ogilvie wintered on the Yukon for the purpose of obtaining astronomical observations and then, traversing an entirely new country to the Upper Porcupine, crossed the Mackenzie River and returned by that route. Mr. McConnell, leaving Dr. Dawson at the mouth of the Dease River, made the perilous descent of the Liard River and wintered at Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie. In the following summer he examined the Mackenzie and Porcupine Rivers, crossing Mr. Ogilvie *en route* and eventually returning to the coast at the head of Lynn Canal. Reports of the expedition are given in Vols. III. and IV. of the Geological Survey Reports and in the Report of the Department of the Interior for 1889.

545. Exploratory work of a similar kind was carried on by Mr. McConnell in the Athabasca district in 1889 and 1890, and in the Findlay River and Omenica districts in 1893.

In regions somewhat nearer the capital a number of lengthy explorations were made by Dr. R. Bell of the Geological Survey. In 1877 an examination was made of about 700 miles of the eastern coast of Hudson Bay, followed by similar work in 1878-80 in the valleys of the Nelson and Hayes Rivers between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay, God's Lake, Little Churchill River, etc. In 1884 and 1885 Dr. Bell accompanied the Hudson Bay expeditions, of which full reports are published by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. In 1886 the Allawpishkat and Albany Rivers were explored by Dr. Bell, and in the same year Mr. A. P. Low penetrated another part of the great tract of country between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay via Berens River, Trout Lake and Severn River.

546. By means of these and other expeditions the main topographical and geological features of the vast area lying between Lakes Superior and Winnipeg and Hudson Bay have been ascertained.

547. Much further to the north a remarkable exploration was performed in 1893, by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, through the "Barren Grounds." Hitherto the only information existing of this region depended on the imperfect reports brought back from a part of it by Hearne, more than one hundred years ago.

548. As some account of this expedition has appeared in the Year-Book for 1893 it need here only be stated that from the east end of Athabasca Lake Black Lake was first attained, and the river flowing into it from the north was then followed up to its source. The height of land having been crossed the head waters of the Telzoa or Doobaunt rivers were found, and this river was followed and surveyed from lake to lake (including the large Doobaunt Lake) till the head of Chesterfield Inlet was attained. Thence a laborious and hazardous journey still remained to be accomplished to Fort Churchill, a distance of about 500 miles. The length of route actually surveyed through the unknown interior was about 800 miles.