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THE BOUNDARY OF THE LATEST GLACIATION IN ARCTIC CANADA

By Dr. WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE northern boundary of the latest (Wisconsin) glaciation of the North American continent has never been mapped by glacialists;¹ and until the modern aviation era had opened, an exploring expedition was necessary even to gain access to the region.

As all glacialists are aware, the area covered by the latest glaciation is everywhere characterized by the occurrence of a peculiar type of glacial lake with many bays and islands, and these lakes are found in great numbers—in myriads wherever the relief is low

¹ See E. Antevs, "The Last Glaciation," *Amer. Geog. Soc., Research Series*, no. 17, p. 75, 1925. See also *Geol. Soc. Amer., Bul.*, vol. 40, pp. 631-720, 1929.

and the glacial topography dominates the landscape.²

Lakes are features of short lives in a geological sense, and they have not survived from any of the three earlier glaciations of the Pleistocene (in case these glaciations have extended beyond the borders of the Wisconsin). The dividing line between lakes and lakeless country in arctic Canada may therefore be assumed to approximate the boundary of the latest

² See Map of the Northwest Territories and Yukon, by the Hydrographic and Map Service of Canada, Surveys and Engineering Branch, Dept. Mines and Resources, scale 80 miles to the inch, 1939. Also, Map of Canada, *Nat. Geog. Soc.*, scale 93 miles to the inch, 1936.

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