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New Glacial Map of Canada¹

by PLEISTOCENE GEOLOGY SECTION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

A new Glacial Map of Canada is being prepared by the GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA for release, as one of a series of maps, during the Centennial celebrations in 1967. The compilation is under the direction of V. K. PREST of the Survey's Pleistocene Geology Section. Concurrent with the work on the glacial map Prest is preparing a new account of Surficial Deposits and Pleistocene History for inclusion in the fifth edition of Geology and Economic Minerals of Canada, also to be published in 1967. Prest spent the 1964 field season in selected parts of eastern Canada. In the Maritimes specific attention was given to sites of buried organic deposits on Cape Breton Island and to the problem of marine overlap, mostly around the southern side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; also contacts were made with some of the persons whose work pertains to various aspects of Pleistocene geology.

Work on the glacial map compilation should be completed by the current year end. The general pattern of ice flow features and eskers will not differ from that shown on the 1958 Glacial Map (Geol. Assoc. Can. compilation, J. T. Wilson, Chairman) but will in some areas include new or more detailed information. The new map will differ mostly with respect to areas of marine overlap and glacial lake coverage and to the pattern of moraines. The map will also include data on the elevations of various lake stages and on maximum marine overlap, with pertinent radiocarbon dates.

The sites of pre-classical Wisconsinan buried organic deposits, together with their latest known radiocarbon datings, will also be shown. The complexity of the Pleistocene record in Canada is ever becoming more apparent; the new map will thus provide a bird's-eye picture of the Canada-wide occurrences of buried organic deposits and of the 'timing' of deglaciation. Areas on which information is needed and problems concerning Pleistocene chronology will be evident when the map is published and this in itself will provide a contribution befitting the Centenary - pointing the way to coming years of Pleistocene research.

Contributions from workers in the Maritimes would be welcome both for present map, historical account, and record purposes. In particular both land and sea records on stratigraphy of the surficial deposits are needed from the Atlantic Provinces. All contributions will be held in confidence prior to the Centennial publication.

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