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THE DEGLACIATION OF LABRADOR-UNGAVA, AN OUTLINE **

Summary

An outline is presented of the results of five years' field work aimed predominantly at unravelling the complexities of the deglaciation. Extensive air photograph mapping has been used as a basis. A commentary on climatic conditions accompanying deglaciation is added.

Localities along the Labrador coast and the Torngat Mountains have been examined, together with the George River Valley, the Schefferville vicinity, and other sections of the „lake plateau". The study includes surveys of the direction of slope and vertical spacing of glacial drainage channels and the extent and tilt of glacial lake shorelines.

Two distinct glaciations are recognised in the northeast, each characterised by ice dispersal from the west. Final dissipation resulted primarily from down-wasting and stagnation during a period of high snowline.

Once the continental ice had thinned to expose the Atlantic-Ungava Bay divide, vast bodies of water gradually accumulated, exceeding, thousands of square miles in extent. The lakes overlie the site of the late-Wisconsin ice-divide as depicted on the Glacial Map of Canada, thus prompting a radical reinterpretation.

The dispersal of ice over Ungava Bay, accelerated by Marine transgression, caused the final draining of the lakes and the remaining ice on the plateau was reduced successively until the final stagnant masses, located 25—35 miles north of Schefferville, melted as detached pieces in the deeper valleys.

It is considered that westerly circulation and the lowering of the snowline would cause instantaneous glaciation across wide areas of the plateau at the onset of each glacial period. During deglaciation the pattern was reversed with the high Atlantic seaboard first emerging from the ice.

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** Paper published in full: *Cahiers de Géographie de Québec*, No. 8, Avril-Sept., 1960, pp. 323—343.