

AREA, BOUNDARIES, &c.

Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland occupy an immense extent of territory; St. Johns, Newfoundland, the most easterly capital, being $26^{\circ} 30'$ East and 9° North of Toronto, the most westerly; the distance between the two being considerably over 1000 miles. These countries, however, all belong to one geographical district, which may be called the Laurentian, each claiming a portion of the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Colonial Mediterranean.

Canada lies principally on the North side of the St. Lawrence, and the North and East sides of Lake Ontario, Erie, Huron and Superior. In part, also, on the South side of the St. Lawrence, stretching from near Montreal to the Bay of Chaleurs. Its northerly and westerly boundaries have not been fixed. It is bounded on the South by the territories of the United States and New Brunswick. The area of Canada is given in official returns as 331,280 square miles, being 121,260 for Upper, and 210,020 for Lower Canada.*

New Brunswick is bounded by Canada, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy and the United States, being divided from the latter by the St. Croix River. Its area is 27,105 square miles.

Nova Scotia is a peninsula connected with New Brunswick by a low sandy isthmus. It is about 300 miles long, and about 100 miles broad at its widest. The island of Cape Breton is now a part of Nova Scotia, the Gut of Canso, which divides them, being less than a mile in breadth. The coast of Nova Scotia is everywhere indented with arms of the sea, and no part of it is more than 20 miles from salt water. Area, including Cape Breton, 13,690 square miles.

Prince Edward Island is about 140 miles long and 34 in its greatest breadth. Its coasts are like those of Nova Scotia, much indented by bays, and no part is more than 10 miles from the sea. Unlike Nova Scotia, which has a rock-bound shore, the coast of P. E. Island is of sand or mud. Area, 2,100 square miles.

The greatest length of Newfoundland is, from North to South, 350 miles; average breadth, 130. Coast bold and rocky. Area, 40,200 square miles.

Thus the area of the five Provinces proposed to be confederated is as under:—
Upper Canada..... 121,260 square miles.
Lower Canada..... 210,020 “ “

New Brunswick.....	27,105 square miles.
Nova Scotia.....	18,690 “ “
P. E. Island.....	2,100 “ “
Newfoundland.....	40,200 “ “
Total.....	419,345 “ “

If to this be added the area of Vancouver's Island, 20,600 square miles; British Columbia, 200,000 square miles; and Labrador, the Hudson's Bay and North-West Territories with, say 2,750,000 square miles, we have a total for British North America of no less than 3,389,345 square miles.

The climate and productions of the Colonies are more dissimilar than might be inferred from the latitude of their settled districts. In the extreme West of Upper Canada, Indian Corn can be raised with profit; peaches, grapes and melons grow luxuriantly in the open air; but the district favored thus is small, and although the greater part of Canada is a magnificent region for growing all the cereals, while wheat can be raised with care in every settled part of every colony, we find by the time we travel farther Eastward than Quebec, that the people depend less and less upon the soil, until in Newfoundland they are almost exclusively concerned about the waters and buy from other countries almost all their cereal and animal food. The winter's cold varies even more than the summer's heat. Snow rarely lies more than a month in the West of Upper Canada. In some parts of Canada East and the Labrador, it lies for five or six months, every season.

The diversity of the mineral resources of the several colonies is no less than that of their agricultural productions. The western peninsula of Upper Canada as yet alone yields petroleum; it has many valuable quarries, but few metallic ores. These, however, the shores of the upper Lakes, Central and Eastern Canada, Nova Scotia, and probably Newfoundland and New Brunswick, abundantly supply. Especially valuable are the copper mines of Canada and Newfoundland, and the gold and coal of Nova Scotia. Prince Edward Island is the worst off in this particular. It had to import from Nova Scotia not only the plans for its sole stone building, (the House of Parliament), but even the materials.

This diversity is, however, a happy thing for all the Colonies. While the general severity of their climate enforces activity among their people, the variety of their resources prevents their inhabitants from confining themselves to one branch of industry. Their wants, and the commodities with which to pay for the supply of these wants, being different, they contain within themselves the germs of a trade among themselves, which, when freed from artificial restrictions, and enabled to flow in improved channels, may some day attain vast proportions, rivalling and exceeding their already extensive commerce with foreign nations.

*By the Proclamation of General Sir Alured Clarke, dated 13th November, 1791, the then Province of Quebec, under the provisions of the Imperial Act, 14 Geo. III. was divided into the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. This Proclamation, accordingly, defines the line of boundary that divides them. By the Treaty of Peace of 1763, France ceded to Great Britain all the territory or country known and denominated as "la Nouvelle-France," designating therein the boundaries of the countries so ceded, which subsequently have been affected in a greater or less degree by the Treaty of Washington of 1842, defining the boundary between Canada and the United States, and the Imperial Act 14th and 15th Viet. ch. 63, defining the boundary between Canada and New Brunswick.

