

# CANADA.

## STATISTICAL ABSTRACT AND RECORD. 1886.

### PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

1. The Dominion of Canada has an area of about 3,470,392 square miles, and comprises about one-sixteenth of the land surface of the globe. It is the largest of all the British possessions, Australia the next in size, containing 2,944,628 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean, on the west by the Territory of Alaska and the Pacific Ocean, on the south by the United States, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. It takes in the whole of what was formerly known as British North America, with the exception of a portion of Labrador, and the Island of Newfoundland; and is composed of the seven Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, and of the Territories, which comprise the district formerly known as the Hudson's Bay Territory, and has been partly divided into the Districts of Keewatin, Athabaska, Alberta, Assiniboia, and Saskatchewan; the Province of Manitoba was also, formerly, part of the Hudson's Bay Territory.

2. Canada is remarkable for the size and number of its inland lakes, which contain more than half the fresh water of the globe. It is about 3,500 miles from east to west, and 1,400 from north to south.

3. The Rocky Mountains in the west, which extend from the Arctic Ocean to the United States, are the principal range, and contain the highest points in the Dominion; among the chief being Mount Hooker, 16,760 feet, Mount Brown, 16,000 feet; and Mount Murchison, 15,700 feet, while there are several others of nearly the same height. Among the numerous passes across the Rocky Mountains, the Kicking Horse Pass is the one through which the Canadian Pacific Railway runs.

4. West of the Rocky Mountains, and between them and the Pacific Ocean, are the Cascade Mountains which follow the coast from the Fraser River to Alaska, and in some places are as high as 10,000 feet. The other principal ranges are the Wotschish and Notre Dame Mountains in Quebec, and the North and South Mountains, and the Cobequid Mountains in Nova Scotia.

5. The principal lakes are as follows: In Ontario, are what are known as the great lakes, viz., Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario; there are also Lakes Nepigon, Nipissing and Simcoe, and the chain of Muskoka lakes, viz., Lakes Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph. Lake Temiscamingue is on the borders of Ontario and Quebec, and there are also, in Quebec, Grand Lake and Lake St. John. In the Territories and Manitoba are Lakes Great Bear, Great Slave, Athabaska, Winnipeg, Winnipegosis, Manitoba and Mistassini. Lake Superior is the largest of all the lakes, and is also the largest body of fresh water in the world.