

Islands.

9. The largest islands on the west are Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, the former of which is about 300 miles in length, has an area of about 20,000 square miles and contains Victoria, the capital of British Columbia; and on the east, Prince Edward Island, which forms the Province of that name; Cape Breton, which is part of the Province of Nova Scotia, being separated from the mainland by the Gut of Canso, and Anticosti, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on which the Dominion Government have important signal and wrecking stations. A great network of islands, the limits of which have not been well defined, extends along the entire north coast of Canada. It is known generally as the Arctic Archipelago.

Physical features, Eastern Canada.

10. The area of Canada being so great, its general physical features and its soil and climate naturally vary very much in character. The whole of the eastern part of Canada, from the Atlantic to the north-west boundaries of Ontario, was formerly one vast forest, and is still in many places very heavily wooded, the production of timber in various forms being one of the principal industries in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and it is calculated that the timber wealth of the northern parts of Ontario and Quebec, in spite of the heavy inroads annually made, is sufficient to meet the demand for very many years. Underlying this forest when cleared, the soil has been found of great richness and admirably adapted for agriculture of all kinds.

Physical features, North-Western Canada.

11. Between the northern boundary of Ontario and the Rocky Mountains lie the Province of Manitoba and the southern part of the North-West Territories. This great tract of land is remarkable for its division along lines running generally north-west and south-east, into three distinct prairie steppes, or plateaux, as they are generally called. The first of these is known as the Red River Valley and Lake Winnipeg Plateau. The width at the boundary line is about 52 miles, and the average height about 800 feet above the sea; at the boundary line the height is about 1,000 feet. This first plateau lies entirely