Part II—Canals.

St. Lawrence system of canals.

863. The system of inland navigation in Canada is the largest and most important in the world. The St. Lawrence system alone, in conjunction with the great lakes, extends for 2,260 miles, viz., from the Straits of Belle Isle to Port Arthur, at the head of Lake Superior. Of this distance 71¾ miles are artificial navigation by means of canals, and 2,188¼ miles open navigation; from Port Arthur to Duluth, which is the principal port in that section of the United States for the produce of the western States, is a further distance of 124 miles, making altogether 2,384 miles. When it is considered that, by this means, unbroken water communication is afforded from Port Arthur and Duluth to Liverpool, a total distance of 4,618 miles, the importance of this system, and the necessity for its thorough maintenance, will be at once understood.

Distances between Port Arthur and Liverpool.

864. The following is a table of distances between Port Arthur, Lake Superior and Liverpool :—

	Miles.
Port Arthur to Sault Ste. Marie	273
Sault Ste. Marie to Sarnia	318
Sarnia to Amherstburg	76
Amherstburg to Port Colborne	232
Port Colborne to Port Dalhousie	27
Port Dalhousie to Kingston	170
Kingston to Montreal	178
Montreal to Three Rivers (Tidewater)	86
Three Rivers to Quebec	74
Quebec to Saguenay	126
Saguenay to Father Point	57
Father Point to W. end Anticosti	202
Anticosti to Belle Isle	441
Belle Isle to Malin Head (Ireland)	2,013
Malin Head to Liverpool	221
	4,494

Particulars of the great lakes.

865. The great lakes, which form one of the most remarkable features of this system of inland navigation, contain more than half the fresh water of the globe, and consist of Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario, and the following table gives their length, breadth, area, and height above the sea :—