

gouche and Miramichi rivers ; and in British Columbia, the Fraser River, which flows into the Gulf of Georgia ; the Peace River, which rises in that province and flows into the Mackenzie River, and the Columbia River, over 1,200 miles in length, which flows through the United States into the Pacific Ocean.

56. The coast line of Canada is very much broken, and contains several large gulfs, bays and inlets, besides innumerable smaller ones. On the east the principal indents are the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy and Bay of Chaleurs ; on the north, Baffin's Bay, the Gulf of Boothia, Melville and Lancaster Sounds and Hudson's Bay, which is really a large inland sea, 1,000 miles long and 600 wide, with an area of 350,000 square miles ; and on the west, the Straits of Juan de Fuca, the Gulf of Georgia and Queen Charlotte Sound.

57. The largest islands on the west are Queen Charlotte and Vancouver islands ; the latter about 300 miles in length, with an area of 20,000 square miles, contains Victoria, the capital of British Columbia. 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 Strait 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. These islands form the Arctic Archipelago.

58. As the area of Canada is great, its general physical features and its soil and climate vary very much in character. The whole of the eastern part of Canada, from the Atlantic to the north-west boundaries of Ontario was at one time a vast forest, still in many places very heavily wooded. Fuller particulars of the forest wealth of Canada are given on page 104.

59. 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. 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