

the following rivers fall into Hudson Bay, the Whale, the Koksoak (into Ungava Bay), the Dubaunt (into Chesterfield Inlet), the Seal, North, Nelson, Hayes, Weenisk, Trout, Equan, Attawapiskat (on the west shore), the Moose, Missinaibi, Oggotika, Mattagami, Abittibe (at the south end), the Harrikanaw, Notaway, Rupert, East Main, Big, Great Whale, Nastapauka, Langlands, &c., &c. The Tyrrell Expedition of 1893 discovered a river described to be as large as the Ottawa and 900 miles long, north of the Dubaunt. The Hudson's Bay Company have several stations on the Bay and their ships have made annual visits to it for two hundred years.

134. The Arctic coast is but little known. The North Polar Sea has been the aim and ultimate object of many explorations. The mainland of Canada, bordering on that sea, stretches from Fox Channel to the Alaskan boundary, a distance of 1,000 miles. The coast line follows the 70th parallel, with several peninsulas, like Boothia, protruding beyond.

The principal bays on the coast are Great Fish Bay, Boothia Gulf, McLaughlin, Coronation, Darnley, Franklin, Erskine Sound and Mackenzie Bay at the mouth of the Mackenzie River.

Near Franklin Bay and midway between Coppermine and Mackenzie Rivers is Cape Bathurst in latitude 70° 30' north. From that Cape to Point Barron, the most northerly point of Alaska, there is open water for three months in the summer. This is the great whaling region of Canada, and in the valuable Canadian Arctic harbour in Herschel Island, west of the Mackenzie River, whalers winter so as to be ready in the early spring when the pack ice breaks up.

In the summer of 1893 the Eskimo at the mouth of Mackenzie River killed over fifty white whales. Two whalers captured over fifty, each yielding an average of 1,800 pounds of whalebone. Seven vessels wintered at Herschel Island in the winter of 1893-94.

135. The coast line of British Columbia is stated, in a sessional paper of 1880, to be 7,181 miles in length, some of the inlets penetrating upwards of fifty miles inland. From the southern boundary line the coast is broken into a maze of inlets, and fringed by countless islands of greater or less extent. Along the whole coast line a perfect labyrinth of islands exists giving innumerable sheltered roadsteads and channels teeming with fish.

In Esquimalt, Victoria, Burrard Inlet, Nanaimo and many other points are splendid harbours, Esquimalt being to Great Britain on the Pacific Coast what Halifax is on the Atlantic—the second great naval basis of the Empire on this continent.

136. The largest islands in Canada are : on the west, 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 already referred to.