

RECORD.

The earliest official records show that John and Sebastian Cabot, sailing under commission from King Henry VII. of England, landed in 1497 on that part of the present Dominion of Canada known as Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

Gaspar Cortereal discovered and named the Labrador coast in 1500.

Jacques Cartier, of St. Malo, France, acting under the authority and patronage of Francis I. of France, discovered, in 1534, those portions of the Dominion of Canada now called New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, and on his return to France presented the King with the first official record there is of the existence of these regions.

Captain Cook in 1778 gave the first authentic record of the discovery of Vancouver Island and the Pacific Ocean coast of the present Dominion.

Frobisher, Hudson, Parry, Franklin, Richardson, Back, Mackenzie, Simpson, Vancouver and others, between 1576 and 1847, explored and named the north and north-west coasts of the Dominion.

Colonization was practically begun in 1605-8. In 1605 Baron de Poutrincourt established Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal, in Nova Scotia) the first actual settlement by Europeans. In 1608 Champlain founded Quebec.

The name Canada first appears in the 'Bref recit de la navigation faite en 1536-7 par Capt. Jacques Cartier.'

By discovery, by occupation and by the Treaties of Utrecht (1713), of Paris (1763), and of Versailles (1783), all the country comprised in the Dominion of Canada became part of the British Empire.

The Dominion of Canada is about 3,500 miles from east to west and 1,400 miles from north to south.

It comprises the whole of the northern half of North America with the exceptions, on the west, of Alaska, and on the east, of the Labrador coast line, which latter is under the jurisdiction of Newfoundland, this colony not yet having entered the Canadian confederation.

Canada is bounded on the north by the Beaufort Sea and the Arctic Ocean ; on the west by Alaska and the Pacific Ocean ; on the east by the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Labrador ; and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean and the United States of America. The latter boundary (starting from the Atlantic seaboard) commences at the mouth of the St. Croix River, which empties into the Bay of Fundy, then follows this river and Lake Chiputnecook and passes due north until it strikes the St. John River ; thence by that river and one of its western branches it reaches the watershed between the St. Lawrence River and the Atlantic, which it follows by a tortuous south-westerly course to the 45th parallel of north latitude in longitude 71° 31" west ;