

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADA.

2.—Lengths of Principal Rivers and Tributaries in Canada—concluded.

| Names. | Miles. | Names. | Miles. |
|---|--------|--|--------|
| Flowing into the Pacific Ocean— concluded. | | Flowing into the Arctic Ocean— concluded. | |
| Stewart..... | 320 | Liard..... | 550 |
| White..... | 185 | Fort Nelson..... | 260 |
| Pelly..... | 330 | Athabaska..... | 765 |
| Macmillan..... | 200 | Pembina..... | 210 |
| Lewes..... | 338 | Slave..... | 265 |
| Flowing into the Arctic Ocean. | | Peace (to head of Finlay)..... | 1,065 |
| | | Finlay..... | 250 |
| Mackenzie (to head of Finlay)..... | 2,525 | Parsnip..... | 145 |
| Peel..... | 365 | Smoky..... | 245 |
| Arctic Red..... | 230 | Little Smoky..... | 185 |
| | | Coppermine..... | 525 |
| | | Backs..... | 605 |

NOTE.—In the above table the tributaries and sub-tributaries are indicated by indentation of the names. Thus the Ottawa and other rivers are shown to be tributary to the St. Lawrence, and the Gatineau and other rivers as tributary to the Ottawa.

St. Lawrence River System.—Most important of the lakes and rivers in Canada is the chain of the Great Lakes with their connecting rivers, the St. Lawrence river and its tributaries. This chain is called the St. Lawrence River System. The Great Lakes, separating the province of Ontario from the United States and connected by a series of artificial canals with the St. Lawrence river, allow of access from the Atlantic ocean to the interior of the Dominion at Fort William and Port Arthur, twin cities situated at the head of lake Superior.

The Great Lakes.—Table 3 shows the length, breadth, areas and elevation above sea-level of each of the Great Lakes.

3.—Area and Elevation of the Great Lakes.

| Lakes. | Length. | Breadth. | Area. | Elevation above Sea-level. |
|----------------|---------|----------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | Miles. | Miles. | Sq. Miles. | Feet. |
| Superior..... | 354 | 162 | 31,800 | 602 |
| Michigan..... | 316 | 118 | 22,400 | 581 |
| Huron..... | 207 | 101 | 23,200 | 581 |
| St. Clair..... | 26 | 24 | 445 | 575 |
| Erie..... | 239 | 59 | 10,000 | 572 |
| Ontario..... | 193 | 53 | 7,260 | 246 |

Lake Superior, with its area of 31,800 square miles, is the largest body of fresh water in the world. As the international boundary between Canada and the United States passes through the centre of lakes Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario, only half of the areas of these lakes given in the above statement is Canadian. The whole of lake Michigan is within United States territory. From the western end of lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Lawrence there is, with the aid of the canal system, a continuous navigable waterway. The total length of