

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

area of the United Kingdom, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, having together a population of over 135,000,000. There are a great number of islands off the coast of British Columbia included in the province. The most important are Vancouver island and the Queen Charlotte islands. Vancouver island extends from latitude N. $48^{\circ} 20'$ to 51° N. It is 285 miles long and from 40 to 80 miles wide, having an area of about 20,000 square miles. Queen Charlotte islands extend from latitude N. $51^{\circ} 55'$ to latitude N. $54^{\circ} 8'$; having an area of 3,780 square miles. Texada, Princess Royal, Pitt, Banks, Porcher, Goschen, McCauley, Hunter, Aristazable and Hawkesbury islands are of respectable size, and there are many others. The combined area of all the British Columbia islands would be great enough to make an important province even if there were no mainland. Vancouver island alone is more than nine times as large as the province of Prince Edward Island, and more than sixteen times as large as the state of Rhode Island.

THE LAND OF WATERWAYS.

Anyone looking at the map of Canada must be impressed with the extraordinary natural facilities for water communication. The Dominion might appropriately be called the land of waterways. The Maritime Provinces are almost surrounded by deep water and their coasts are indented with a great number of fine harbours. In New Brunswick great navigable rivers connect the interior with the sea. The St. Lawrence river and the Great Lakes give communication in summer between the sea and the central provinces, while the West can be reached by way of Hudson strait and the vast interior waters of Hudson bay, although navigation of the strait is obstructed by floating ice for the greater part of the year. There are great lakes and rivers in the West which afford means of internal communication in summer for a vast area of country, while British Columbia has also a number of navigable rivers, and its extensive coast abounds in great harbours. A great part of the Arctic coast is usually obstructed by ice, but there is reason to believe that communication could be maintained between the mouth of the Mackenzie river and the Pacific ocean by way of Behring strait for a considerable portion of the year. Navigation on the interior waterways is obstructed in many places by waterfalls, but short canals overcome the difficulty, and the waterfalls afford electric power for lighting, traction and manufacturing purposes. Canada already has an extensive system of canals, and others are projected. Nature did much in providing waterways and waterfalls, but left to the Canadian people the task of connecting the waterways and developing water powers.

In both Quebec and Ontario the land slopes up gradually from the north shore of the river St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes to the elevation known as the Height of Land, which forms the watershed between the rivers flowing into James bay and Hudson bay and those that empty into the St. Lawrence system. One of the most notable