

Islands.—The northern and western coasts of Canada are skirted by clusters of islands. Those on the north are mostly within the Arctic circle. On the west, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands are the largest and most important. On the east, besides the separate island colony of Newfoundland, there are the Cape Breton Island, forming part of the province of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, forming one of the nine provinces of Canada, the Magdalen Islands and the island of Anticosti. To the south of Newfoundland are the two small islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon belonging to France. In lake Huron is the island of Manitoulin and the so-called Thirty Thousand Islands of Georgian Bay. In the St. Lawrence river, just below lake Ontario, are the picturesque Thousand Islands.

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The purpose of this paper is to present a brief review of the most important articles treating of the economic geology of Canada published during the year 1918. References are made by numbers throughout the paper to the publishers, of whom a list is given at the end.

Bituminous sands.—An enormous deposit of bituminous sand occurs in northern Alberta and is exposed along the banks of Athabaska river and its tributaries. S. C. ELLS, who surveyed the outcrops most favourable for commercial exploitation and carried on laboratory investigations to ascertain the best methods of utilizing the deposits, presents in concise form (6) certain interesting results. To test its use for street paving it was found impossible to secure satisfactory material from any single outcrop. However, by combining the bituminous sands from two separate outcrops in proper proportion a product was obtained that gave satisfactory results. Freight charges would, however, be a serious handicap in the application of this material to road construction, as from 85 to 88 p.c. consists of sand. Experiments made by Mr. ELLS at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research at Pittsburg on the best method of extracting the bitumen from the sand led to the conclusion that separation by water afforded the most promising chances of success and that the temperature for most efficiently treating the Alberta material lay between 315° and 330° F.

Building Stones.—A report by W. A. PARKS (2) on the building and ornamental stones of British Columbia points out that commercial production is confined to the sandstones of the islands, the granites of the Coast range, Okanagan lake and the Nelson districts and to the marbles of Kootenay lake, Texada island, and Nootka sound. The sandstone is normally of a greyish-blue colour, but it alters rapidly to buff. The granites of the Coast range vary greatly in mineral composition, colour and grain. The most important quarries, which are on the islands off the mouth of Jervis inlet, are in a medium-grained grey stone. The Nelson granites are lighter in colour than those of the Coast range and are usually coarser in grain. The Okanagan granites are of medium grain and pinkish colour; they have