

**Summary of Land and Water Area.**—For the convenience of the reader, the total land and water area of the Dominion, and its distribution into provinces and territories, is shown in Table I.

**1.—Land and Water Area of Canada, by Provinces and Territories, as in 1927.**

Provinces.	Land.	Water.	Total Land and Water.
	sq. miles.	sq. miles.	sq. miles.
Prince Edward Island.....	2,184	—	2,184
Nova Scotia.....	21,068	360	21,428
New Brunswick.....	27,911	74	27,985
Quebec.....	583,895	10,539	594,434
Ontario.....	365,880	41,382	407,262
Manitoba.....	231,928	19,906	251,832
Saskatchewan.....	243,381	8,319	251,700
Alberta.....	252,925	2,360	255,285
British Columbia.....	353,416	2,439	355,855
Yukon.....	209,427	649	207,076
Northwest Territories—			
Franklin.....	546,532	7,500	554,032
Keewatin.....	218,460	9,700	228,160
Mackenzie.....	493,225	34,265	527,490
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>3,547,230</b>	<b>127,493</b>	<b>3,674,723</b>

The water area, as given above, is exclusive of Hudson bay, Ungava bay, the bay of Fundy, the gulf of St. Lawrence and all other tidal waters, excepting that portion of the river St. Lawrence which is between Pointe-des-Monts and the foot of lake St. Peter, in Quebec.

### 1.—Orography.

The topographical features of the present surface of the North American continent admit of its division, in Canada, into several orographic provinces. The exposed surface of the old Precambrian continent forms one of the largest divisions and has been called the Canadian Shield, the Archæan Peneplain and in its southern portion, the Laurentian Highland. The mountainous country of the west constitutes the Cordilleras, while the mountains of eastern United States, in their continuation across the border, form the Appalachian highland of eastern Canada. The Great Plains, with various subdivisions, occupy the area between the mountainous area of the west and the great, roughened surface of the Canadian Shield. The St. Lawrence lowland lies between the Laurentian and Appalachian highlands. Within the borders of the Canadian Shield an area on the southern margin of Hudson bay has been referred to as the "clay belt". It occupies a part of the basin that during the glacial period was submerged and covered with a coating of clay which smoothed over its inequalities and concealed most of the underlying rocks. Since its emergence the surface has been but slightly altered by drainage channels cut across it.

Orographical maps of Eastern and Western Canada, showing elevations above sea-level, will be found on pages 6 and 8 of this volume.

**Canadian Shield.**—The portion of the Precambrian continent whose exposed surface still forms a large part of Canada has an area of about two and a half million square miles. Its northern border crosses the Arctic archipelago and the eastern lies beyond Baffin island and Labrador and reaches the depressed area occupied by the St. Lawrence river, a short spur or point crossing this valley at the outlet of lake Ontario to join the Adirondack mountains in New York. The southern boundary runs from the spur west to Georgian bay, skirts the north shore of