

The Great Lakes.—Table 4 shows the length, breadth, area, elevation above sea-level and maximum depth of each of the Great Lakes. Particularly notable is the depth of lake Superior and the shallowness of lake St. Clair and lake Erie.

4.—Area, Elevation and Depth of the Great Lakes.

Lakes.	Length.	Breadth.	Maximum depth.	Area.	Elevation above sea-level.
	miles.	miles.	feet.	square miles.	feet.
Superior.....	383	160	1,180	31,810	602.29
Michigan.....	320	118	870	22,400	581.13
Huron.....	247	101	750	23,010	581.13
St. Clair.....	26	24	23	460	575.62
Erie.....	241	57	210	9,940	573.52
Ontario.....	180	53	738	7,540	246.17

Lake Superior, with its area of 31,810 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, St. Clair and Ontario, only a part 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 the St. Lawrence river from the head of the St. Louis river to Pointe-des-Monts, at the entrance of the gulf of St. Lawrence, is 1,900 miles. The tributaries of the St. Lawrence, several of which have themselves important tributaries, include the Ottawa river, 685 miles long, the St. Maurice river, 325 miles long, and the Saguenay (to head of Peribonka), 405 miles long.

Other Inland Waters.—In addition to the Great Lakes there are large bodies of inland water in other parts of Canada. Of these only the following principal lakes, with their respective areas, need be mentioned:—in Quebec, lake Mistassini (975 square miles); in Ontario, lake Nipigon (1,730 square miles); in Manitoba, lake Winnipeg (9,459 square miles), lake Winnipegosis (2,086 square miles) and lake Manitoba (1,817 square miles); in Saskatchewan, Reindeer lake (1,765 square miles); in Alberta, lake Athabaska (2,762 square miles). All these are within the boundaries of the provinces as at present constituted and are exclusive of lakes situated in the Northwest Territories, the largest of which are Great Bear lake (12,200 square miles) and Great Slave lake (9,800 square miles) in the district of Mackenzie.

Table 5 gives a list of the principal lakes of Canada by provinces, with the area of each in square miles. The table corresponds with the delimitation of the provinces as altered by the Boundary Extension Acts, 1912 (2 Geo. V, cc. 32, 40 and 45).