

Fundy. Prince Edward Island is 2,184 square miles in area, Cape Breton 3,120 and Anticosti of about the same extent. Fishing activities in these eastern islands are important, while agriculture in Prince Edward Island and mining in Cape Breton are among the chief occupations of the inhabitants.

Manitoulin island in lake Huron and the Thousand Island group in the St. Lawrence river, at its outlet from lake Ontario, are the more important islands of the inland waters.

PART II.—GEOLOGY.

Section 1.—Geology of Canada.¹

The outstanding feature of Canadian geology is the vast area underlain by formations of Precambrian age. These occupy nearly the whole of Canada east of a line joining lake Winnipeg and Great Bear lake, with the exception of the Maritime Provinces, the extreme southern parts of Ontario and Quebec and a part of Ontario adjacent to the southern coast of Hudson Bay. The Precambrian rocks include the oldest known geological formations and are the foundation of a part of the North American continent that has existed as a land mass at intervals throughout all that portion of geological time that has been recorded in sedimentary formations exposed on the face of the earth.

Another prominent feature is the wide extent of nearly flat-lying sedimentary formations of Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic age that almost wholly surround the Precambrian area. They form a mantle spread out on a sloping shelf of Precambrian rocks and at one time probably extended over a great part of the Precambrian area. In few places was there even fairly continuous sedimentation throughout the three great geological periods, and the succession of strata is in most places broken and incomplete.

Approaching the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the flat-lying sedimentary series give way to great assemblages of folded sedimentary and volcanic rocks pierced by granitic bodies and forming the Appalachian system of mountains on the east and the great Cordillera on the west. In the folding, rocks of Precambrian age are again brought to the surface. In the extreme north an analogous mountain range stretches from Greenland westward into Ellesmere island.

Subsection 1.—Topography.

The topography of Canada is the outward or surface expression of geological processes that have been in operation at the surface of the earth and at depth throughout geological time. It is the imprint made by the deposition of sediments, the folding of strata, the intrusion of igneous masses, the ejection of volcanic material, and the dissolving, eroding and transporting of rock matter by agencies acting at the surface. The slow rising and sinking of broad continental areas, the forming of great mountain ranges, and their gradual levelling, are all involved. The present land form is but a momentary expression of a continent that is undergoing eternal change.

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