

Yukon and Northwest Territories.—The vast area of 1,516,758 square miles is included within the boundaries of Canada's northern subdivisions, the Yukon Territory and the three provisional districts of the Northwest Territories. This is over twelve times the area of the British Isles, nearly half the area of the United States, and more than the combined areas of the Argentine Republic and Chile in South America. The northern territories are as yet, in parts, unexplored, but travel and transport by air is having a great influence in their further exploration and development. By means of aeroplane photography, the mapping of areas adjacent to the chief transportation routes and mineral discoveries is being rapidly extended. There are many widely scattered indications of mineral wealth in these territories. The discovery of alluvial gold in the Yukon was the cause of the first opening up of that territory, which of late years has been producing coal for local requirements and exporting silver and lead, as well as gold. The presence of copper deposits in the Coppermine River area has been known for many years and recent exploration substantiates their probable eventual worth. More recently, at the east end of Great Bear lake, rich deposits of silver-radium ore have been discovered and are now being mined. Oil wells which have been drilled at Norman on the Mackenzie river are providing a source of power for the mining and transportation activities, as well as a convenient fuel for the increasing number of residents in the district. Promising gold prospects have been located in the Great Slave Lake area. Because a large portion lies within the Arctic circle, the tendency has been to associate with the Northwest Territories thoughts of ice and snow but as our knowledge is increased the argument steadily gains more weight that what have been regarded in the past as the great "barren lands" of the northern mainland, are more appropriately described as our great northern prairies.

Development of the resources of, and communications in, the Northwest Territories and Yukon are dealt with in Chapter XXVIII, Subsection 1.

Summary of Land and Water Area.—The total land and fresh-water areas of the Dominion, together with its distribution by provinces and territories, are shown in Table 1.

1.—Land and Fresh-Water Area of Canada, by Provinces and Territories, as in 1936.¹

| Province or Territory. | Land. ² | Fresh Water. ² | Total. ² | Per cent of Total Area. |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | sq. miles. | sq. miles. | sq. miles. | |
| Prince Edward Island..... | 2,184 | — | 2,184 | 0.1 |
| Nova Scotia..... | 20,743 | 325 | 21,068 | 0.6 |
| New Brunswick..... | 27,473 | 512 | 27,985 | 0.8 |
| Quebec..... | 523,534 | 71,000 | 594,534 | 16.1 |
| Ontario..... | 363,282 | 49,300 | 412,582 | 11.1 |
| Manitoba..... | 219,723 | 26,789 | 246,512 | 6.7 |
| Saskatchewan..... | 237,975 | 13,725 | 251,700 | 6.8 |
| Alberta..... | 248,800 | 6,485 | 255,285 | 6.9 |
| British Columbia..... | 359,279 | 6,976 | 366,255 | 9.9 |
| Yukon..... | 205,346 | 1,730 | 207,076 | 5.6 |
| Northwest Territories— | | | | |
| Franklin..... | 546,532 | 7,500 | 554,032 | 15.0 |
| Keewatin..... | 218,460 | 9,700 | 228,160 | 6.2 |
| Mackenzie..... | 493,225 | 34,265 | 527,490 | 14.2 |
| Canada..... | 3,466,556 | 228,307 | 3,694,863 | 100.0 |

¹The salt-water areas of Canada are excluded.

² Approximate.