

Section 2.—Lakes and Rivers.

The fresh-water area of Canada is unusually large constituting over 6 p.c. of the total area of the country. The outstanding feature is the Great Lakes, details concerning which are given in Table 3.

Particularly notable are the depth of lake Superior and the shallowness of lake St. Clair and lake Erie.

3.—Areas, Elevations, and Depths of the Great Lakes.

Lake.	Length.	Breadth.	Maximum Depth.	Area.	Elevation Above Sea-level.
	miles.	miles.	feet.	sq. miles.	feet.
Superior.....	383	160	1,302	31,820	602-23
Michigan.....	321	118	923	22,400	580-77
Huron.....	247	101	750	23,010	580-77
St. Clair.....	26	24	23	460	575-30
Erie.....	241	57	210	9,940	572-40
Ontario.....	193	53	774	7,540	245-88

Lake Superior, with an area of 31,820 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 waters of lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario, only a part of the areas of these lakes given in the above statement is Canadian, while the whole of lake Michigan is within United States territory. The total length of the St. Lawrence waterway, from the head of the St. Louis river in Minnesota to Pointe-des-Monts at the entrance of the gulf of St. Lawrence, is 1,900 miles. The great obstacle to navigation on this waterway was the rise of 326 feet between lakes Ontario and Erie, which is now surmounted by the Welland ship canal; the river itself dropping over the escarpment at Niagara creates perhaps the most famous waterfall in the world. The Great Lakes, with the St. Lawrence river, form the most important system of waterways on the continent and one of the world's most notable fresh-water transportation routes. In addition to the Great Lakes there are many other remarkably large lakes; the eleven following, with their areas in square miles in parentheses, are all over 1,000 square miles in area: Great Bear (11,660), Great Slave (11,170), Winnipeg (9,398), Athabaska (3,058), Reindeer (2,444), Winnipegosis (2,086), Manitoba (1,817), Dubawnt (1,600), Nipigon (1,870), Southern Indian (1,200), Lake of the Woods (1,346). Apart from these lakes, named as notable for their size, there are innumerable other lakes scattered all over that major portion of the area of Canada lying within the Canadian Shield. In an area of 6,094 square miles, accurately mapped, just south and east of lake Winnipeg, there are 3,000 lakes; in an area of 5,294 square miles, accurately mapped, southwest of Reindeer lake in Saskatchewan, there are 7,500 lakes. A table at pp. 12-13 of the 1938 Year Book gave a list of the principal lakes of Canada, by provinces, with their elevations in feet and their areas in square miles.