

CHAPTER I.—PHYSIOGRAPHY

CONSPECTUS

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PART I.—GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES*

Situation.—The Dominion of Canada comprises the whole northern part of the North American Continent with its islands, except the United States territory of Alaska and the territory of Newfoundland (with Labrador). It takes in the whole Arctic Archipelago between Davis Strait and the connecting waters northward to the 60th Meridian on the east and the 141st Meridian on the west.

The Dominion is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean and Alaska; on the south by the United States; on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the waters between Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Labrador, Davis Strait, and the dividing waters between the Danish territory of Greenland and Ellesmere Island; northward it extends to the North Pole.

The southernmost point is Middle Island in Lake Erie, in north latitude 41° 41'. From east to west Canada extends from about west longitude 57° at Belle Isle Strait to west longitude 141°, the boundary of Alaska. Canadian territory thus extends over 48° of latitude and 84° of longitude.

Area.—The area of the Dominion is 3,694,863 square miles, a figure that may be compared with that of 3,738,395 square miles for the United States and its dependent territories, 3,776,700 the total area of Europe, 2,974,581 the area of Australia, 3,275,510 the area of Brazil, 1,805,252 the area of India, 121,633 the area of the British Isles. Canada's area is over 27 p.c. of the total area of the British Empire, as it is shown at p. 165 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

Political Subdivisions.—Canada is divided from east to west into the following provinces: the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, all three comparatively small in area; Quebec, covering a strip south of the St. Lawrence River and the whole territory north of the St. Lawrence River and east of the Ottawa River to Hudson Strait, except the Coast of Labrador; Ontario, extending northward from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay; Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, the provinces of the interior continental plain, extending from the boundary of the United States to 60° north latitude; and British

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