

South and east of Hudson Bay the predominating feature, both orographically and economically, is the very extensive depression containing the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, which connects them with the Atlantic Ocean. The bulk of the drainage basin of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence lies within the limits of the Canadian Shield and possesses the characteristics already described. The very important exception is the valley of the St. Lawrence River from Kingston to Quebec and the peninsula of Ontario formed by the Great Lakes, which together are generally known as the St. Lawrence Lowlands, about 35,000 square miles in area. Containing as it does the greater part of the population of Canada, this industrial area is of great economic importance; the climatic conditions and fertile soil combine to make it most suitable for mixed farming.

The Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), together with the southeastern portion of Quebec, embrace an extension northward of the Appalachian Mountains but, except for the Notre Dame Mountains of Gaspé Peninsula, the comparatively low elevations are better described as hills. The whole area may be regarded as a peninsula jutting out with bold and broken coast-line to separate the Gulf of St. Lawrence from the Atlantic and it is this situation that dominates the orography; with the exception of the St. John, the rivers are not of great length in their courses down to the sea. It is a beautiful country of diversified character with areas of good farm lands; the broken coast provides many good harbours and the only year-round ocean ports on Canada's Atlantic Seaboard.

Section 2.—Lakes and Rivers

Lakes.—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; particularly notable are the depth of Lake Superior and the shallowness of Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.

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

Lake	Elevation Above Sea-level	Length	Breadth	Maximum Depth	Total Area	Area on Canadian Side of Boundary
	ft.	miles	miles	ft.	sq. miles	sq. miles
Superior.....	602-23	383	160	1,302	31,820	11,200
Michigan.....	580-77	321	118	923	22,400	Nil
Huron.....	580-77	247	101	750	23,010	13,675
St. Clair.....	575-30	26	24	23	460	270
Erie.....	572-40	241	57	210	9,940	5,094
Ontario.....	245-88	193	53	774	7,540	3,727

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 the parts of the areas of these lakes given in the final column of the above table are 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 to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is 1,900 miles. The great obstacle to navigation on this waterway