

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 a most important system of waterways 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, eleven of these being over 1,000 square miles in area. Apart from these lakes, 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 gives an extended list of the principal lakes of Canada, by provinces, with their elevations in feet and their areas in square miles.

Rivers.—The river systems of Canada, excluding the Arctic islands, are best studied by segregating the main drainage basins.

3.—Drainage Basins in Canada¹

Drainage Basin	Area Drained ²	Drainage Basin	Area Drained ²
	sq. miles		sq. miles
Atlantic Basin		Arctic Basin	
Atlantic or Maritime Provinces.....	61,151	Great Slave Lake.....	370,681
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River...	359,312	Arctic.....	559,676
Total.....	420,463	Total.....	930,357
Hudson Bay Basin		Pacific Basin	
Northern Quebec.....	343,259	Pacific.....	273,540
Southwest Hudson Bay.....	283,997	Yukon River.....	127,190
Nelson River.....	368,182	Total.....	400,730
Western Hudson Bay.....	383,722	Gulf of Mexico Basin.....	10,121
Total.....	1,379,160	Canada, Less Arctic Archipelago...	3,140,831

¹ This classification is that of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. ² Areas are approximate and are exclusive, for all rivers, of those portions of their basins that lie in United States territory.

It is noteworthy that most rivers of the Dominion drain into Hudson Bay and the Arctic Ocean; the Nelson River drainage is exceptional in running *through* the most arable and the most settled part of the West, but, otherwise, the rivers run *away* from the settled areas towards the cold northern salt waters and this adversely affects their industrial utility. The Mackenzie, which drains Great Slave Lake, is, with its headwaters, the longest river in Canada (2,514 miles) and its valley constitutes the natural transportation route through the Northwest Territories down to the Arctic Ocean. From Fort Smith, on the Slave River, large river-boats run without any obstruction down to Aklavik in the delta of the Mackenzie, a distance of 1,292 miles. In Eastern Canada it is the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence drainage basin that dominates, and has undergone the greatest degree of development. The St.