

Lawrence River and the Great Lakes provide a water route from the Atlantic as far as Fort William and Port Arthur, twin cities situated on Lake Superior and only 419 miles from Winnipeg, the half-way mark in distance across the Dominion. The main tributaries of the St. Lawrence all flowing south (most of which have lakes available for reservoiring), together with the main river itself, have developed and undeveloped waters powers whose potential economic value is very great. Apart from the plains region of the West, the rivers of Canada have a vast power potentiality well distributed over the country. A table at p. 15 of the 1938 Year Book gives an extended list of the principal rivers with their tributaries classified according to the four major drainage basins.

Section 3.—Islands

The islands of Canada are among its most remarkable geographic features. They include the very large group lying in the Arctic Ocean, the fringe of both large and small islands off the Pacific Coast, those of the Maritime Provinces and Quebec in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, together with the islands of the Great Lakes and other inland waters. The Arctic islands are of vast extent, Baffin, Victoria, and Ellesmere, the three largest, being approximately 201,600, 80,450, and 75,024 square miles in area, respectively, but Banks, Devon, Somerset, Prince of Wales, Melville, and Axel Heiberg are each larger than Prince Edward Island; Southampton, another very large island, lies just within the wide mouth of Hudson Bay. Their economic potentialities have not been fully established, though coal and other minerals are known to exist there. The Pacific Coast islands, with the exception of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte group, are small and dot the western coast of British Columbia from Dixon Entrance to the southern boundary of the Province. Vancouver Island is 285 miles long and from 40 to 80 miles broad, covering an area of about 12,408 square miles; the mountain range that forms its backbone rises again to form the Queen Charlotte Islands farther north. These islands figure largely in the mining, lumbering, and fishing industries of the West, and together with the bold and deeply indented coast-line provide a region for scenic cruises rivalling those of Norway.

On the eastern coast of the Dominion are the island province of Prince Edward Island, the Islands of Cape Breton (an integral part of Nova Scotia), Anticosti, and the Magdalen group (included in the Province of Quebec), and the Islands of Grand Manan and Campobello (part of the Province of New Brunswick) in the Bay of Fundy. Prince Edward Island is 2,184 square miles in area, Cape Breton 3,970, and Anticosti about the same. Fishing activities in these eastern islands are important, while agriculture on Prince Edward Island and mining on Cape Breton are the chief occupations of the inhabitants.

Manitoulin Island and the Georgian Bay islands in Lake Huron and the Thousand Islands group in the St. Lawrence River, at its outlet from Lake Ontario, are the more important islands of the inland waters.

PART II.—GEOLOGY

Section 1.—Geology of Canada

See list at the front of this edition for special material, under this heading, published in previous editions of the Year Book.