

CHAPTER I.—PHYSIOGRAPHY

CONSPECTUS

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PART I.—GEOGRAPHY*

Main Geographical Features.—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.

The area of the Dominion is 3,695,189 square miles, a figure that may be compared with that of 3,735,209 square miles for the United States and its dependent territories; 3,776,700 the total area of Europe; 2,974,514 the area of Australia; 3,275,510 the area of Brazil; 1,581,079 the area of India (excluding Burma); 120,849 the area of the British Isles. Canada's area is 28 p.c. of the total area of the British Empire, as it is shown at p. 141 of the 1943-44 Year Book.

The sea coast of Canada, one of the longest of any country in the world, comprises the following mileages:—

Mainland—Atlantic 3,068, Pacific 1,579, Hudson Strait 1,245, Hudson Bay 3,157, Arctic 5,771; total 14,820 miles.

Islands— Atlantic 1,518, Pacific 3,979, Hudson Strait 60, Hudson Bay 2,307, Arctic 26,786; total 34,650 miles.

* Revised by F. H. Peters, Surveyor General and Chief, Hydrographic Service, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.