

In addition to the Great Lakes there are many other remarkably large lakes as is shown by Table 3: it will be noted that there are eleven lakes over 1,000 square miles in area. Apart from these lakes, named as 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 a more extended list of the principal lakes of Canada, by provinces, with their elevations and areas.

The river systems of Canada, excluding the Arctic islands, are best studied by segregating the main drainage basins as shown in Table 4.*

4.—Drainage Basins in Canada

Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹ sq. miles	Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹ 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
Southwestern Hudson Bay.....	283,997	Yukon River.....	127,190
Nelson River.....	368,182	Total.....	400,730
Western Hudson Bay.....	388,722	Gulf of Mexico Basin.....	10,121
Total.....	1,379,160	Canada, Less Arctic Archipelago ..	3,140,831

¹ 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 the greater part of the Dominion drains 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. Apart from the plains region of the West, the rivers of Canada have a vast power potentiality well distributed over the country. Table 5 shows Canadian rivers and tributaries 300 miles or more in length, by drainage basins. A table at p. 15 of the 1938 Year Book gives a more extended list of the principal rivers with their tributaries classified according to the four major drainage basins.

* This classification is that of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.