

(2) The St. Lawrence Region, a lowland belt bordering the St. Lawrence River and extending westward through southern Ontario to Lake Huron. It is underlain chiefly by flat or gently dipping strata of Palæozoic age.

(3) The Canadian Shield, a vast V-shaped area of ancient rocks surrounding Hudson Bay.

(4) The Interior Plains. Region of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta which stretches down Mackenzie Valley to the Arctic Ocean. It is underlain by only slightly disturbed Palæozoic and Mesozoic strata.

(5) The Cordilleran Region, including the mountainous country of the Pacific Coast which is developed on highly disturbed rocks.

(6) The Arctic Archipelago, with which is linked the Hudson Bay Lowland. The former includes the islands lying north of the Canadian Shield, while the latter is a broad, flat region, underlain by flat-lying Palæozoic beds.

The physiographic details of each division described above with the geology of the same areas are given at pp. 19-29, under the heading "Geology"

Subsection 1.—Hydrographical Features*

The oceanic areas immediately surrounding the northern half of North America play a vital role in the national life of Canada. The immense navigable waterways which extend into the heart of the continent have been of greatest importance to the discovery, exploration and mercantile development of the Dominion. The energizing influence of the ocean, brought far inland by remarkable coastal physiography, has had marked effect on the lives and character of the inhabitants. The serried Atlantic and Pacific Coasts provide excellent harbours for great fishing fleets and are natural sites for the ports required for transshipment of primary and manufactured products

To present a comprehensive description of these adjacent seas, the good offices of oceanography, geology, marine biology, meteorology, and many other sciences would have to be invoked, but in the space allotted it would be impossible to deal with so many aspects. The basic factor in any utilitarian study of the oceanic-continental margin is the physical relief of the sea-floor, a subject that has been widely investigated in recent years. As an arbitrary limit must be set, the scope of this subsection is restricted to a consideration of some of the more salient features of the hydrography of the marginal seas surrounding Canada.

The Dominion authority for conducting hydrographic surveys is the Hydrographic Service of Canada, under the administration of the Surveys and Engineering Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. The work with which it is charged includes the charting of coastal and inland waters, the investigation of tides and tidal streams, and the recording of fluctuations of the waters comprising the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence waterway. This Service produces and circulates the official Canadian hydrographic aids to navigation: charts, volumes of pilots' and sailing directions, tide tables and related nautical publications.

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