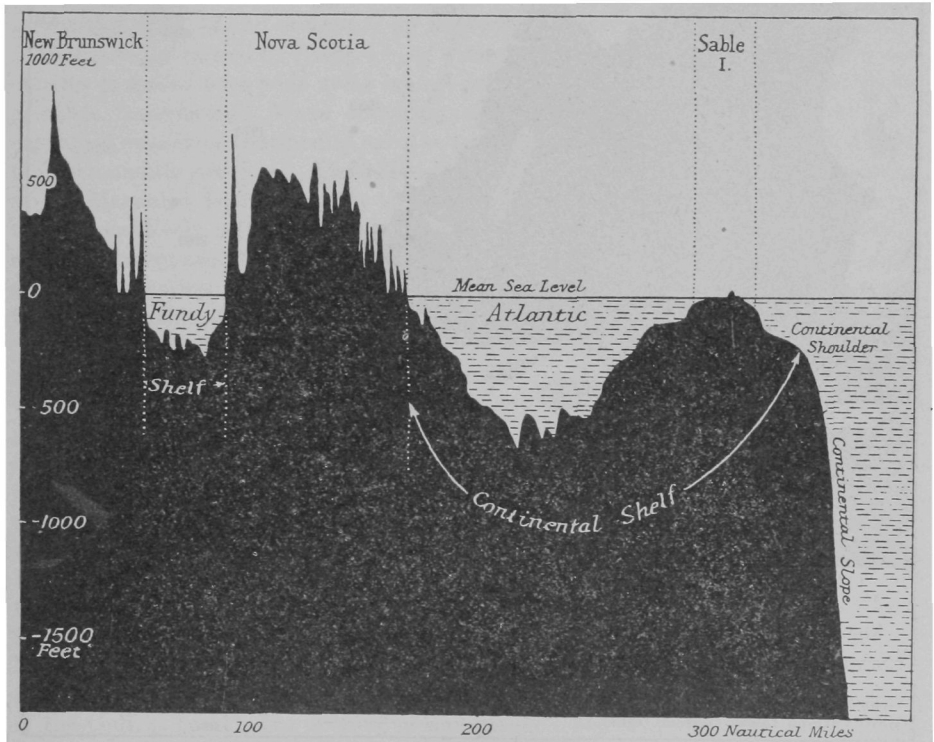


The hydrographical descriptions of the marginal seas are dealt with under the headings, Atlantic, Arctic and Sub-Arctic, and Pacific, in the following paragraphs.

Atlantic.—Incursions of the sea in the Atlantic Coast are formed in depressions between crests of the Appalachian Mountain Range as it dips into the ocean. Seaward from the shore protrudes the submerged Continental Shelf, the zone that effects the transition from continental to oceanic regions. In contrast to the narrowness and comparative smoothness of submarine plateaux in many parts of the world, the shelf extending off the Atlantic Coast of Canada is distinguished by great width and diversity of relief. From the coast of Nova Scotia it extends 60 to 140 miles; from Newfoundland 120 to 270 miles. In the latter region, the oceanward edge of the submerged plateau is over 600 miles from the Canadian coast, the shelf there being taken to embrace within its confines the Island of Newfoundland. Owing to the great paucity of soundings, the width off Labrador is uncertain but indications are that it varies from about 150 miles at Belle Isle to 50 miles at the entrance to Hudson Strait. Northward it merges into that of the Polar Sea.

The outer edge of the shelf is known as the Continental Shoulder. There, the sea-floor drops suddenly to the main oceanic basin, several miles deep, the steep declivity being referred to as the Continental Slope. Depths of the sea over the top of the Shoulder vary considerably in different regions and, in consequence, this boundary line between continental and the deep oceanic features cannot be uni-



A cross-section showing a portion of the Continent and the Continental Shelf, vicinity of Saint John, Halifax and Sable Island.