

## Section 1.—Physical Geography

The physical features of Canada are considered under this heading in the six natural divisions into which the country is divided, as shown on the map, p. 4.

(1) The Appalachian Region, comprising the Maritime Provinces (including the Island of Newfoundland) and most of that part of Quebec lying south of the St. Lawrence River, is a hilly or mountainous region and is made up largely of disturbed beds.

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

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

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

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

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

The physiographic details and geology of each division described above are given at pp. 19-29 of the 1947 edition of the Year Book.

Special articles on the Physical Geography of the Canadian Eastern Arctic and the Physical Geography of the Canadian Western Arctic appear at pp. 12-19 of the 1945 Year Book and pp. 9-18 of the 1948-49 edition, respectively.

### Subsection 1.—Hydrographical Features

The hydrographical features of Canada are described in detail at pp. 3-12 of the 1947 edition of the Year Book.

### Subsection 2.—Lakes and Rivers

The fresh-water area of Canada is unusually large constituting over 6 p.c. of the total area of the country. The outstanding feature is the Great Lakes, details concerning which are given in Table 2. These lakes, with the St. Lawrence River, form the most important system of waterways on the continent and one of the world's most notable fresh-water transportation routes.