

The greater part of Canada 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 Western Canada, but otherwise the rivers of the West, east of the Rockies, 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, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence drainage basin dominates all others and has undergone the greatest development. The St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes provide a water route from the Atlantic as far as Fort William and Port Arthur, Ont., twin cities situated on Lake Superior and only 419 miles from Winnipeg, Man., the half-way mark in distance across Canada. The main tributaries of the St. Lawrence all flowing south (most of which have lakes available for reservoiring), together with the main river itself, have developed and undeveloped water powers, the economic value of which it would be difficult to over-estimate. Apart from the plains region of the West, the rivers of Canada have a vast power potentiality well distributed over the country. Table 5 gives the lengths of the principal rivers with their tributaries classified according to the four major drainage basins.

5.—Lengths of Principal Rivers and Tributaries

NOTE.—In this table the tributaries and sub-tributaries are indicated by indentation of the names. Thus the Ottawa and other rivers are shown as tributary to the St. Lawrence, and the Gatineau and other rivers as tributary to the Ottawa.

River	Length miles	River	Length miles
Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean		Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean—conc.	
St. Lawrence (to head of St. Louis, Minn.)	1,900	St. John	399
Ottawa	696	Romaine	270
Gatineau	240	Natashquan	241
du Lièvre	205	Moisie	210
Coulonge	135	Hamilton	208
Madawaska	130	Exploits	153
Rouge	115	Naskaupi	152
Mississippi	105	Canairiktok	139
Petawawa	95	Eagle	138
South Nation	90	Miramichi	135
Dumoine	80	Marguerite	130
North	70	Gander	102
North Nation	60		
Saguenay (to head of Peribonca)	475	Flowing into Hudson Bay	
Peribonca	280	Nelson (to head of Bow)	1,600
Mistassini	185	Saskatchewan (to head of Bow)	1,205
Ashuapmuchuan	165	South Saskatchewan	865
St. Maurice	325	Red Deer	385
Mattawin	100	Bow	315
Manicouagan (to head of Racine-de-Bouleau)	310	Belly	180
Outardes	270	North Saskatchewan	760
Bersimis	240	Red (to head of Sheyenne)	545
Richelieu	210	Assiniboine	590
St. Francis	165	Souris	450
Chaudière	120	Qu'Appelle	270
Via the Great Lakes—		Winnipeg (to head of Firesteel)	475
French (to head of Sturgeon)	180	English	330
Sturgeon	110	Churchill	1,000
Grand	165	Beaver	305
Thames	163	Koksoak (to head of Kaniapiskau)	660
Spanish	153	Kaniapiskau	575
Trent	150	Severn (to head of Black Birch)	610
Mississagi	140	Albany (to head of Cat)	610
Nipigon (to head of Ombabika)	130	Dubawnt	580
Moira	60	Eastmain	510
Thessalon	40	Fort George (to Nichicun Lake)	480