

CHAPTER I.—PHYSIOGRAPHY AND RELATED SCIENCES

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—*The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on the facing page.*

PART I.—GEOGRAPHY*

Canada comprises the whole northern part of the North American Continent, except for the territory of Alaska. The most easterly point is Cape Spear, Newfoundland, at west longitude 52° 37', and the most westerly point is Mount St. Elias, Yukon, at west longitude 141°. The southernmost point is Middle Island in Lake Erie at north latitude 41° 41' and northward Canada extends to the North Pole and includes the Arctic Archipelago between Davis Strait, Baffin Bay and the connecting waters northward to and along the 60th meridian on the east and the 141st meridian on the west. Thus Canada covers in all 48° of latitude and 88° of longitude. It is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean and the 1,539.8 linear miles of Alaskan territory, on the south by the United States, a distance of 3,986.8 miles, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, Davis Strait and the dividing waters between Ellesmere Island and the Danish territory of Greenland.

Canada is the second largest country in the world, having an area of 3,845,774 sq. miles. It is superseded in size only by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with 8,598,679 sq. miles.† Other comparisons are: China 3,759,181 sq. miles, † continental United States and Alaska 3,608,644 sq. miles, † the Continent of Europe (excluding the European part of the Soviet Union) 1,913,126 sq. miles † and Australia 2,974,463 sq. miles. †

The sea-coast of Canada comprises the following estimated mileages:—

Mainland.—Atlantic 6,111, Pacific 1,579, Hudson Strait 1,245, Hudson Bay 3,157, Arctic 5,771; total 17,863 miles.

Islands.— Atlantic 8,677, Pacific 3,979, Hudson Strait 60, Hudson Bay 2,307, Arctic 26,786; total 41,809 miles.

* Revised by the Geographical Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa.

† Taken from the United Nations Statistical Year Book, 1949-50.