

the shortest crossings of the North Pacific Ocean between continental North America and the Far East. Canada thus stands at the crossroads of contacts with the principal powers and some of the most populous areas of the world.

In size, Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest country in the world. Its area of 3,845,774 sq. miles may be compared with that of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 8,598,701 sq. miles,* the United States of America (including Alaska), 3,608,653 sq. miles,* and Brazil, 3,288,050 sq. miles.* It is more than forty times the size of the United Kingdom and eighteen times the size of France. This immense size however while multiplying certain resources and seeming to afford much scope for settlement has imposed its own burdens and limitations, particularly because much of the land is mountainous and rocky or is under an Arctic climate. The developed portion is probably not more than one-third of the total; the occupied farm land is only 7.6 p.c. and the currently accessible forested land 16.1 p.c. of the total. The population of Canada, estimated at 15,601,000 on June 1, 1955, may be compared with 162,414,000* for the United States (1954) and with 57,098,000* for Brazil (1954).

1.—Approximate Land and Freshwater Areas by Province and Territory

NOTE.—A classification of land area as agricultural, forested, etc., is given at p. 23.

Province or Territory	Land	Fresh Water	Total	Percentage of Total Area
	sq. miles	sq. miles	sq. miles	
Newfoundland (incl. Labrador).....	147,994	7,370	155,364	4.0
Prince Edward Island.....	2,184	--	2,184	0.1
Nova Scotia.....	20,743	325	21,068	0.6
New Brunswick.....	27,473	512	27,985	0.7
Quebec.....	523,860	71,000	594,860	15.5
Ontario.....	333,835	78,747	412,582	10.7
Manitoba.....	219,723	26,789	246,512	6.4
Saskatchewan.....	220,182	31,518	251,700	6.6
Alberta.....	248,800	6,485	255,285	6.6
British Columbia.....	359,279	6,976	366,255	9.5
Yukon Territory.....	205,346	1,730	207,076	5.4
Northwest Territories.....	1,253,438	51,465	1,304,903	33.9
Franklin.....	541,753	7,500	549,253	14.3
Keewatin.....	218,460	9,700	228,160	5.9
Mackenzie.....	493,225	34,265	527,490	13.7
Canada.....	3,562,857	282,917	3,845,774	100.0

Section 1.—Physical Geography

Subsection 1.—Physiographic Divisions

Canada includes each of the major characteristic structures of the North American continent with the exception of the Atlantic coastal plain. Structure tends to dominate relief to a remarkable degree even though its effects have been modified by glacial and river erosion or deposition. Consequently structural regions have become main physiographic divisions. Basically Canada consists of a central rocky upland, or shield, sloping down to flanking basins filled with sedimentary strata and rising again at its margins to mountains of folded rocks, interspersed with igneous intrusions.

Eight physiographic regions dominate the country: (1) The Canadian Shield; (2) the Lower Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands; (3) the Western Interior Lowlands of the Prairies and the Mackenzie basin; (4) the Northern Interior, that is, Hudson Bay,

* United Nations Statistical Yearbook, 1954.