

and Notre Dame Mountains of Quebec. The Acadian geosyncline reached from southeast Newfoundland through Nova Scotia and eastern New Brunswick and was responsible for the uplands of those regions.

Between the mountain ranges are wide basins floored by sandstone, notably those of Prince Edward Island, Minas basin, and the Annapolis and St. John Valleys. The whole complex mass of mountains was planed down by prolonged erosion so that elevation is moderate, not more than 4,200 feet, and outlines are long and smooth with few sharp crests. The name of the highest area, Tabletop Mountain in the Shickshocks, is indicative of the subdued topography. Subsequently the region was glaciated and small glacial lakes, valley moraines and outwash fans play a significant role in scenery and occupation. Raised beaches to a height of 250 feet line many stretches of coast and are marked by roads and settlements. The rivers have been strongly rejuvenated and are lined with terraces particularly valuable for cultivation. Intrusions of granite and trap are frequent. The trap sill forming North Mountain in Nova Scotia encloses the famous Annapolis Valley.

Many of the igneous intrusions are associated with metals, as at Bathurst in New Brunswick where large deposits of lead and zinc are found. At one time gold was mined about the intrusions in Nova Scotia. A large deposit of iron at Wabana and deposits of lead and zinc at Buchans, Newfoundland, are important. On the edge of the region, in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, is the world's largest supply of asbestos and significant deposits of coal occur in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, and on the coasts of Northumberland Sound in New Brunswick. Thus, though the fertile plains of the sheltered basins included in the fold belts have long made the region predominantly agricultural, the mineral resources are the basis for limited but thriving industries. Lumbering on forestclad hills and fishing in the bays of a much-indented coast are also important activities of the region.

The Western Cordilleras.—The Western Cordilleras consist of a belt of lofty ranges, deep troughs and broad plateaux extending for 1,400 miles through the Yukon Territory and British Columbia and having a width of up to 500 miles. The Cordilleras are characterized by intensive folding, elevation and faulting, the intrusion of enormous batholiths—igneous masses that warped-up overlying sedimentaries—and by volcanic activity. They are made up, therefore, of folded sedimentaries, igneous masses and metamorphic rocks. Although older rocks are exposed, Mesozoic and Cenozoic rocks predominate. In Precambrian times the geosynclines formed in which the Yukon group of sediments in Yukon Territory and the Shuswap group in British Columbia were laid down. Later vast depressions occurred where sediments gathered that are now folded into the Purcells and southern Rockies. The accumulation of great depths of sediment, 20,000 feet or more thick, continued through Palæozoic into Mesozoic times. Then in Jurassic times violent volcanism, folding and the intrusion of granites occurred in the outer belts, throwing up the Coast and Selkirk Ranges. The Rocky Mountain system came into being during Cretaceous and Tertiary times.

The whole region was partly planed down and there is a frequent accordance of summit levels. However, subsequent uplift led to a renewed attack on the land by river and sea, and deeply entrenched rivers fringed by pronounced terraces are common. Glaciation has further deepened the valleys and eaten into the divides, leading to knife-like ridges and horn-shaped peaks. Eventual drowning of the coastal fringe made islands of outlying ridges and deep fjords of coastal troughs, producing a highly articulated shore line.

The Cordilleras may be divided into five structures—the Rocky Mountain system, the interior basins and plateaux, the Coast Range, the Inner Passage along the coast, and the outer insular arc.

The Rocky Mountain system begins, in Canada, with the Richardson Range of moderate elevation, heavily glaciated and then dissected by rivers on its flanks but with no marked peaks. Southwards is the Peel Plateau of flat sedimentary rocks, eaten into isolated tablelands by river action. Farther south occur the Mackenzie Mountains, with more intensively folded ridges and ice-serrated peaks rising to 9,000 feet. These are separated