

The results have been fairly high ranges of from 6,000 to 10,000 feet where folding and thrust faulting are much in evidence. The trends of the folds are from southwest to northeast. The Parry Islands fold belt, trending more nearly west-east, consists of typical Appalachian-like folds in canoe-shaped structures about 2,000 feet high which include large tracts of horizontal strata.

Farther north, in the Sverdrup Islands and in those discovered by Stefansson, the strata form a coastal plain gently sloping towards the Arctic Ocean. The beds are much disturbed locally by piercement domes which are frequently the sites of the accumulation of pools of oil. However, geological discovery has not yet proceeded to the extent of determining the mineral wealth of the area. The climate is so severe that it precludes any possibility of agricultural development and has limited even hunting and fishing activities.

Subsection 2.—Inland Waters

The inland waters of Canada (not including salt water areas that are a part of Canada) are extensive, constituting over 7 p.c. of the total area of the country. They are best studied by segregating the main drainage basins as shown in Table 2.

2.—Drainage Basins

Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹	Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹
	sq. miles		sq. miles
Atlantic Basin	695,370^r	Arctic Basin (mainland)	944,280
Ontario.....	116,000	Saskatchewan.....	46,650
Quebec.....	372,780	Alberta.....	158,110
Newfoundland.....	155,360 ^r	British Columbia.....	105,020
New Brunswick.....	27,980 ^r	Yukon.....	53,970
Nova Scotia.....	21,070 ^r	Northwest Territories.....	580,530
Prince Edward Island.....	2,180 ^r		
		Pacific Basin	387,210
Hudson Bay Basin	1,160,420	British Columbia.....	251,990
Quebec.....	199,230	Yukon.....	135,220
Ontario.....	259,810		
Manitoba.....	243,780	Gulf of Mexico Basin	8,600
Saskatchewan.....	189,620	Alberta.....	2,540
Alberta.....	86,530	Saskatchewan.....	6,060
Northwest Territories.....	181,450		

¹ Areas are approximate and are exclusive of those portions of the basins of all rivers that lie in United States territory, and of areas of interior drainage.

During the early period of exploration and development the waterways of Canada were the sole means of access to and travel in the interior. This function is still of importance to much of the country, particularly in the north where most traffic moves by water or by air. In the settled areas, however, the construction of roads and railways has reduced the role of the waterways as transportation routes but they have assumed other functions. Some, particularly in the Canadian Shield area and the Cordilleran region, have been harnessed for the production of electric power. Others, mainly in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, have been dammed to provide water for irrigation purposes. In Eastern Canada many of the rivers have been controlled in an over-all program of flood prevention and conservation of renewable resources or to provide dependable supplies of water for industrial and domestic purposes.

In Eastern Canada, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence drainage basin dominates all others and forms an unequalled system of navigable inland waterways through a region rich in natural and industrial resources. From Duluth, Minn., at the head of Lake Superior