

5.—Elevations and Areas of Principal Lakes, by Province—concluded

Territory and Lake	Elevation		Territory and Lake	Elevation	
	ft.	sq. miles		ft.	sq. miles
Northwest Territories—			Northwest Territories—concluded		
Aberdeen.....	130	475	Martre, la.....	..	685
Artillery.....	1,190	207	Nueltin (total, 336) part.....	..	260
Aylmer.....	1,230	340	Nutarawit.....	..	350
Baker.....	30	975	Pelly.....	..	331
Clinton-Colden.....	1,226	253	Point.....	..	295
Dubawnt.....	500	1,600	Rae.....	748	74
Faber.....	753	163	Schultz.....	115	110
Franklin.....	..	175	Thoalntoa.....	..	160
Garry.....	..	980	Todatara (total, 241) part.....	..	85
Gras, de.....	1,300	345	Yathkyed.....	300	860
Great Bear.....	391	12,000	Yukon Territory—		
Great Slave.....	495	11,170	Aishihik.....	..	107
Hardisty.....	699	107	Atlin (total, 308) part.....	2,200	1
Hottah.....	..	377	Kluane.....	2,500	184
Kaminuriak.....	320	360	Kusawa.....	2,565	56
Maedougal.....	..	265	Laberge.....	2,100	87
Mackay.....	1,415	250	Tagish (total, 138) part.....	2,148	45
Maguse.....	..	540	Teslin (total, 161) part.....	2,250	96
Marian.....	495	90			

Subsection 3.—Coastal Waters

The coastline of Canada, one of the longest of any country in the world, comprises the following estimated milages:—

Mainland—

Atlantic, 6,110; Pacific, 1,580; Hudson Strait, 1,245; Hudson Bay, 3,155; Arctic, 5,770; total, 17,860 miles.

Islands—

Atlantic, 8,680; Pacific, 3,980; Hudson Strait, 60; Hudson Bay, 2,305; Arctic, 26,785; total, 41,810 miles.

A comprehensive description of the coastal waters of Canada would require information from sciences such as oceanography, marine biology and meteorology. However, the basic factor in any study of the oceanic-continental margin is the physical relief of the sea floor and the scope of the information presented here is therefore restricted to this and a few salient features of the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific marginal seas surrounding Canada. Further details are given in the 1947 Year Book, pp. 3-12.

Atlantic.—Along this coastal area, the sea has inundated valleys and lower parts of the Appalachian Mountains as well as those of the Canadian Shield. The submerged Continental Shelf, protruding seaward from the shore, effects the transition from continental to oceanic conditions. This Shelf is distinguished by great width and diversity of relief. From the coast of Nova Scotia its width varies from 60 to 100 miles, from Newfoundland 120 to 50 miles (at the entrance of Hudson Strait), and northward it merges with that of the Arctic Ocean. The outer edge of the Shelf, known as the Continental Shoulder, is of varying depths of from 100 to 200 fathoms before the Shelf suddenly gives way to the steep declivity leading to abyssal depths. The over-all gradient of the Atlantic Continental Shelf is slight but the whole area is studded with shoals, plateaux, banks, ridges and islands and the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are rugged and fringed with islets and shoals. Off Nova Scotia the 40-fathom line lies at an average of 12 miles from the shore and constitutes the danger line for coastal shipping. The whole floor of the marginal sea appears to be traversed by channels and gullies cutting well into the Shelf.

The main topographical features of the Atlantic marginal sea floor are attributed to glacial origin but land erosion is an important factor. Eroded materials are carried seaward by rivers, ice and wind, and wave action against cliffs and shore banks washes away enormous masses that are deposited over the surrounding sea floor. The topography of the continental sea floor is therefore constantly changing and navigation charts of Canada's eastern seaboard must be continuously revised.