

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

Territory and Lake	Elevation		Territory and Lake	Elevation	
	ft.	sq. miles		ft.	sq. miles
<b>Northwest Territories—con.</b>			<b>Northwest Territories—conc.</b>		
Great Bear.....	390	12,275	Rae.....	748	74
Great Slave.....	512	10,980	Schultz.....	125	110
Hardisty.....	699	107	Thalintoa.....	..	160
Hottah.....	640	377	Todatara (total, 241) part.....	..	85
Kaminuriak.....	320	360	Yathkyed.....	480	860
La Martre.....	870	685			
Macdougall.....	..	265	<b>Yukon Territory—</b>		
Mac Kay.....	1,415	250	Aishihik.....	3,001	107
Maguse.....	..	540	Atlin (total, 299) part.....	2,192	1
Marian.....	513	90	Kluane.....	2,525	184
Nueltin (total, 850) part.....	920	260	Kusawa.....	2,200	56
Nutarawit.....	..	350	Laberge.....	2,100	87
Pelly.....	365	331	Tagish (total, 130) part.....	2,152	45
Point.....	1,200	295	Teslin (total, 142) part.....	2,239	96

## 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.

**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.

**Arctic.**—The submerged plateau protruding from the northern coast of North America is a major part of the Great Continental (or Polar) Shelf surrounding the Arctic Ocean on which lie all the Arctic islands of Canada, Iceland, Greenland and most of those of

\* The Federal Government's oceanographic research program is outlined in Chapter XI on Mines and Minerals, Section 2, Subsection 1.