

CHAPTER I.—PHYSIOGRAPHY AND RELATED SCIENCES

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on the facing page.

PART I.—GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY*

Canada occupies the northern half of the North American Continent with the exception of Alaska and Greenland, extending in longitude from Cape Spear, Newfoundland, at 52° 37' W, to Mount St. Elias, Yukon Territory, at 141° W, a distance of 88° 23'. In latitude it stretches from Middle Island in Lake Erie, at 41° 41' N, to the North Pole. The northernmost point of land is Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island, at 83° 07' N. Canada is thus a western and a northern country, a fact of increasing strategic significance.

In shape, Canada resembles a distorted parallelogram with its four corners making important salients. In the north the salient formed by the Arctic Archipelago, which penetrates deep into the Arctic basin, guards the northern approaches to the Continent from Europe and Asia and makes Canada neighbour to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In the south the salient of peninsular Ontario thrusts far into the heart of the United States. In the east the salient of Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland commands the shortest crossings of the North Atlantic Ocean and links Canada geographically with Britain and France. In the west the broad arc of land between Vancouver in southern British Columbia and Whitehorse in Yukon Territory provides the shortest crossings of the North Pacific Ocean between continental North America and the Far East. Canada thus lies at the crossroads of contact with the principal powers and some of the most populous areas of the world.

* Revised by the Geographical Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.