

The Island of Newfoundland, an area of 43,359 sq. miles, is also triangular in shape, each side being about 320 miles long. Its northwestern point is only a few miles from the mainland of Labrador and the distance from its southwestern tip across Cabot Strait to Cape Breton Island is 70 miles. The topography of the Island is quite rugged but there are no areas of great relief except the Long Range which parallels the western coast and rises to heights of over 2,600 feet. The main physiographic features are determined by a series of very old, worn-down fold-ridges with axes trending northeast to southwest. As in Labrador, much of the surface is barren and rocky and has innumerable ponds and swamps, the drainage having been deranged in the last glaciation. The climate of the Island is marine in

character, although the moderating influence of the sea is affected by the cold waters of the Labrador current which sweep along the east and west coasts. Summers are cool and winters relatively mild.

The economy of this portion of the province is also based on forest, fish and mineral resources. Agriculture at present is of only local importance, but it is now considered that Newfoundland's millions of acres of bogland are a potential avenue of expansion for the agricultural industry; with special treatment, these peat lands are capable of producing high yields of most vegetables. The river valleys of the interior and the west coast are thickly forested and support a thriving pulp and paper industry. The deeply indented coastline provides many harbours for hundreds of fishing craft. Modern trawlers and draggers operating out of ports along the southern coast fish the prolific cod banks in all seasons of the year but the summer inshore trap fishery from small boats is equally important. The Island also has extensive mineral deposits, of which iron ore is the most valuable. The huge Wabana deposits of medium-grade ore on Bell Island in Conception Bay account for about 12 p.c. of the Canadian output; substantial quantities of lead-zinc-copper ore are mined at Buchans in the interior; and the major part of Canada's production of fluorspar comes from the Burin Peninsula.

