

forms an unequalled navigable inland waterway through a region rich in natural and industrial resources. From Duluth, Minn., at the head of Lake Superior to Belle Isle at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence the distance is 2,280 miles. The entire drainage area to the north of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes is occupied by the southern fringe of the Canadian Shield—a rugged, rocky, plateau region over the edge of which tumble many swift-flowing tributary rivers. These rivers, as well as the St. Lawrence itself, provide the electric power necessary to operate the great industries of the area. South of the St. Lawrence, the smaller rivers are important locally. The St. John, for instance, drains a fertile area and provides most of New Brunswick's hydro power.

The Hudson Bay drainage basin, although the largest in area, is the least important economically. Only the Nelson and Churchill Rivers have power potential within economical distance of settled areas. The two main branches of the Saskatchewan River, tributary to the Nelson, drain one of Canada's great agricultural regions and are now the bases of important irrigation projects.

The Arctic drainage basin is dominated by the Mackenzie, one of the world's longest rivers, which flows 2,635 miles from the head of the Finlay River to the Arctic Ocean and drains an area in the three westernmost provinces of approximately 700,000 sq. miles. Except for a 16-mile portage in Alberta, it is possible for steamboats to navigate from the end of steel at Waterways on the Athabasca River to the mouth of the Mackenzie, a distance of 1,700 miles.

The rivers of the Pacific basin rise in the mountains of the Cordilleran Region and flow to the Pacific Ocean over tortuous, precipitous courses, rushing through steep canyons and tumbling over innumerable falls and rapids. They provide power for large hydro developments and in season swarm with salmon returning inland to their spawning grounds. The major rivers of the basin are the Fraser which rises in the Rocky Mountains and toward its mouth flows through a rich agricultural area, the Columbia which is an international river with a total fall of 2,650 feet during its course and has thus a tremendous power potential, and the Yukon River which is also an international river but, though the largest on the Pacific slope, is at present relatively unimportant economically.

Table 3 lists the principal rivers of Canada and their tributaries. The tributaries and sub-tributaries are indicated by indentation of names; thus the Ottawa and other rivers are shown as tributary to the St. Lawrence, and the Gatineau and other rivers as tributary to the Ottawa.

3.—Lengths of Principal Rivers and Their Tributaries

Drainage Basin and River	Length	Drainage Basin and River	Length
	miles		miles
Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean		Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean—continued	
St. Lawrence (to head of St. Louis, Minn.)	1,900	Richelieu	210
Ottawa	696	St. Francis	165
Gatineau	240	Chaudière	120
du Lièvre	205	Via the Great Lakes—	
Coulonge	135	French (to head of Sturgeon)	180
Madawaska	130	Sturgeon	110
Rouge	115	Grand	165
Mississippi	105	Thames	163
Petawawa	95	Spanish	153
South Nation	90	Trent	150
Dumoine	80	Mississagi	140
North	70	Nipigon (to head of Ombabika)	130
North Nation	60	Moira	60
Saguenay (to head of Peribonca)	475	Thessalon	40
Peribonca	280	St. John	418
Mistassini	185	Romaine	270
Ashuapmuchuan	165	Natashquan	241
St. Maurice	325	Moisie	210
Mattawin	100	Hamilton	208
Manicouagan (to head of Racine de Bouleau)	310	Exploits	153
Outardes	270	Naskaupi	152
Bersimis	240	Canairiktok	139