



the smaller rivers are important locally. The Saint John, for instance, drains a fertile area and provides most of New Brunswick's hydro power.

The Hudson Bay drainage basin is the largest in area and its main river is the Nelson. The Winnipeg River, a tributary of the Nelson, is completely developed for hydro-electric power but development of the Nelson itself is just beginning. The Saskatchewan River, tributary to the Nelson, drains the great agricultural region of the mid-west and is now an important source of water for irrigation and hydro-electric power.

The Arctic drainage basin is dominated by the Mackenzie, one of the world's longest rivers. It flows 2,635 miles from the head of the Finlay River to the Arctic Ocean and drains an area of approximately 700,000 sq miles in the three westernmost provinces and the two territories. Except for a 16-mile portage in Alberta, barge navigation is possible from 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-electric developments and in season swarm with salmon returning inland to their spawning grounds. The Fraser River rises in the Rocky Mountains and, toward its mouth, flows through a rich agricultural area. The Columbia is an international river which has a total fall of 2,650 ft during its course and has thus a tremendous power potential. Although a considerable portion of the United States potential has been developed, the Canadian portion of the basin has remained relatively untouched until recent years when three large reservoirs were constructed in Canada under the terms of the Columbia River Treaty. These reservoirs now make it possible for British Columbia to develop up to 4,000 Mw of hydro-electric generating capacity in the Columbia basin in Canada. The Yukon River is also an international river but, although the largest on the Pacific slope, it is as yet of relatively little economic importance.