

Lawrence river, a short spur or point crossing this valley at the outlet of lake Ontario to join the Adirondack mountains in New York. The southern boundary runs from the spur west to Georgian bay, skirts the north shore of lake Huron and sweeps almost entirely around the ancient depressed area occupied by lake Superior. The western edge, from the lake of the Woods and lake Winnipeg, bears northwest to the western end of lake Athabaska, and passes through the basins occupied by Great Slave and Great Bear lakes, reaching the Arctic ocean east of the Mackenzie River delta. In detail, the surface features of the Canadian Shield are irregular; but, viewed broadly, it has the conformation of a great plain, depressed toward the centre and in the north and slightly elevated along the eastern and southern borders, where it presents a somewhat steep outward slope. The general elevation in the eastern portion is under 2,000 feet, and over the larger part of the plain is about 1,000 feet. The highest portion is along the northeastern margin where it presents a steep face to the sea.

**Cordilleran Region.**—The western part of the American continent is more or less mountainous. The Andean chain, which extends throughout the length of South America and broadens out in North America and in Canada, has an average width of over 500 miles. This region is the most elevated in Canada, many of the summits reaching heights of 10,000 feet, with occasional peaks over 13,000 feet above sea-level. The mountainous tract forming the Cordilleras can be divided broadly into three parallel bands; an old series of plateaus and mountains forming the central part, referred to as the Central Belt, a young series of parallel ridges, east of the central plateaus, formed of fault blocks and folds and known as the Eastern Belt and a third division, between the plateau country and the Pacific, called the Western Belt. The Belts are further subdivided as in the following tables:—

### 1.—Mountain Systems and Ranges in Western Canada.

#### EASTERN BELT.

SYSTEM.	MOUNTAINS OR PLATEAUS.	RANGE, GROUP OR PLATEAU.
ROCKIES	ROCKY MOUNTAINS	{ Hughes range, Brisco range, Livingstone range, Palliser range, Other ranges and groups
	MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS	{ Sayunei range, Tigonankweine range, other ranges and groups.
	FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS	Un-named ranges and groups.
ARCTIC	RICHARDSON MOUNTAINS	Un-named ranges and groups.