

4.—Drainage Basins in Canada

Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹ sq. miles	Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹ sq. miles
Atlantic Basin		Arctic Basin	
Atlantic or Maritime Provinces.....	61,151	Great Slave Lake.....	370,681
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River..	359,312	Arctic.....	576,507
Total.....	420,463	Total.....	947,188
Hudson Bay Basin		Pacific Basin	
Northern Quebec.....	343,259	Pacific.....	273,540
Southwestern Hudson Bay.....	283,997	Yukon River.....	127,190
Nelson River.....	368,182	Total.....	400,730
Western Hudson Bay.....	383,722	Gulf of Mexico Basin.....	10,121
Total.....	1,379,160	Canada, Less Arctic Archipelago... 	3,157,662

¹ Areas are approximate and are exclusive, for all rivers, of those portions of their basins that lie in United States territory.

It is noteworthy that the greater part of the Dominion drains into Hudson Bay and the Arctic Ocean; the Nelson River drainage is exceptional in running *through* the most arable and the most settled part of the West but, otherwise, the rivers of Western Canada east of the Rockies run *away* from the settled areas towards the cold northern salt waters and this adversely affects their industrial utility. The Mackenzie, which drains Great Slave Lake, is, with its headwaters, the longest river in Canada (2,514 miles) and its valley constitutes the natural transportation route through the Northwest Territories down to the Arctic Ocean. From Fort Smith, on the Slave River, large river boats run without any obstruction down to Aklavik in the delta of the Mackenzie, a distance of 1,292 miles. In Eastern Canada it is the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence drainage basin that dominates, and has undergone the greatest degree of development. Apart from the plains region of the West, the rivers of Canada have a vast power potentiality well distributed over the country. Table 5 shows Canadian rivers and tributaries 300 miles or more in length, by drainage basins. A table at p. 15 of the 1938 Year Book gives a more extended list of the principal rivers with their tributaries classified according to the four major drainage basins.

5.—Canadian Rivers and Tributaries 300 Miles or More in Length

NOTE.—In this table the tributaries and sub-tributaries are shown by indentation of the names. Thus the Winnipeg River is shown as tributary to the Nelson, and the English River as tributary to the Winnipeg.

River	Length miles	River	Length miles
Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean		Flowing into Hudson Bay—continued	
St. Lawrence (to head of St. Louis, Minn.)..	1,900	Red (to head of Lake Traverse).....	355
Ottawa.....	696	Red (to head of Shenyne).....	545
Saguenay (to head of Peribonka).....	405	Assiniboine.....	590
St. Maurice.....	325	Souris.....	450
Manikuanan.....	310	Winnipeg (to head of Firesteel).....	475
St. John.....	399	English.....	330
Flowing into Hudson Bay		Churchill.....	1,000
Nelson (to Lake Winnipeg).....	400	Beaver.....	305
Ottawa (to head of Bow).....	1,600	Albany (to head of Cat).....	610
Saskatchewan (to head of Bow).....	1,205	Dubawnt.....	580
North Saskatchewan.....	760	Koksoak (to head of Kaniapiskau).....	535
South Saskatchewan (to head of Bow).....	865	Kaniapiskau.....	445
Red Deer.....	385	Fort George.....	520
Bow.....	315	Attawapiskat.....	465
		Kazan.....	455
		Severn.....	420