

Farther north in the Sverdrup Islands and in those discovered by Stefansson, the strata form a coast plain* gently sloping towards the Arctic Ocean. The beds are much disturbed locally by piercement domes, notably in Axel Heiberg and Ellef Ringnes Islands. Geological discovery has not yet proceeded to the extent of determining the mineral wealth of the Innuitias. However, piercement domes are frequently the sites of the accumulation of pools of oil. The climate is so severe that it precludes any possibility of agricultural development and has even limited hunting and fishing activities.

*See region 8, map, p. 3. Axel Heiberg Island, and those parts of Ellesmere Island shown on map as in region 8, are now (Nov. 1954) reclassified in region 7.

Subsection 2.—Hydrographic Features

Lakes and Rivers.—Canada's fresh-water lakes and rivers cover an area of 268,611 sq. miles. The outstanding lakes are, of course, the Great Lakes, though only part of these are in Canadian territory. The International Boundary between Canada and the United States passes through Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario. Details are given in Table 2.

2.—Elevations, Areas, and Depths of the Great Lakes

Lake	Elevation Above Sea-level	Length	Breadth	Maximum Depth	Total Area	Area on Canadian Side of Boundary
	ft.	miles	miles	ft.	sq. miles	sq. miles
Superior.....	602·23	383	160	1,302	31,820	11,200
Michigan (U.S.A.).....	580·77	321	118	923	22,400	—
Huron.....	580·77	247	101	750	23,010	13,675
St. Clair.....	575·30	26	24	23	460	270
Erie.....	572·40	241	57	210	9,940	5,094
Ontario.....	245·88	193	53	774	7,540	3,727

There are no tides in the Great Lakes although considerable variation in water-levels is occasioned by strong winds.

Other large lakes of Canada, ranging in area from 9,000 to 12,000 sq. miles, are Lake Winnipeg, Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake. Apart from these, notable for size, there are innumerable lakes scattered over that major portion of Canada lying within the Canadian Shield. In an area of 6,094 sq. miles, accurately mapped, south and east of Lake Winnipeg, there are 3,000 lakes. In an area of 5,294 sq. miles, accurately mapped, southwest of Reindeer Lake in Saskatchewan, there are 7,500 lakes.

3.—Elevations and Areas of Principal Lakes, by Province

NOTE.—Areas given are for mean water levels. In the case of those reservoirs and lakes for which two elevations are given, HW means high water, LW low water, and N normal level.

Province and Lake	Elevation	Area	Province and Lake	Elevation	Area
	ft.	sq. miles		ft.	sq. miles
Newfoundland—			Nova Scotia—		
Deer.....	12	24	Bras d'Or.....	tidal	360
Gander.....	86	49			
Grand.....	270	140			
Melville.....	sea-level	1,133	New Brunswick—		
Michikamau.....	1,650	566	Grand.....	tidal	65
Red Indian.....	500	65			
Victoria.....	700	15			