

CHAPTER I.—PHYSIOGRAPHY AND RELATED SCIENCES

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on the facing page.

PART I.—GEOGRAPHY*

Canada comprises the greater part of the northern half of North America lying between the United States, Alaska and Greenland. In longitude Canada extends from Cape Spear, Newfoundland, at 52°37'W, to Mount St. Elias, Yukon Territory, at 141°W, a distance of 88°23'. In latitude it stretches from Middle Island, Lake Erie, at 41°41'N, to the North Pole. The northernmost point of land is Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island, at 83°07'N. Thus Canada is essentially a western and a northern country, a fact of increasing strategic significance. Moreover the climatic, vegetation and soil belts are drawn out into broad east-west zones, thereby supporting the east-west orientation of the main frontier of the country and aiding Canada's historic east-west development.

The shape of Canada is like a distorted parallelogram with its four corners making important salients. In the north the salient formed by the Arctic Archipelago, which penetrates deep into the Arctic basin, guards the northern approaches to the continent from Europe and Asia and makes Canada neighbour to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In the south the salient of peninsular Ontario thrusts far into the heart of the United States. In the east the salient of Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland commands the shortest crossings of the North Atlantic Ocean and links Canada geographically with the United Kingdom and France. In the west the broad arc of land between Vancouver in southern British Columbia and Whitehorse in Yukon Territory provides

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