

The principal physical features of Canada are the Rocky Mountains and the Laurentian range, the plains of the North-west Territories, the great lakes and Hudson Bay and the Bay of Fundy, and the Mackenzie River and St. Lawrence River basins.

The great Laurentian lakes, five in number, form, with their connecting rivers, a complete system of navigation from the head of Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of 2,384 miles. They cover an area of about 100,000 square miles.

Other great lakes are Great Bear, 11,200 square miles; Great Slave, 10,100 square miles; Winnipeg, 9,400 square miles; and Athabaska, 4,400 square miles.

The principal mountains are the Rocky Mountains in the west, extending from the Arctic Ocean to the United States; they contain the highest points in the Dominion, among the chief being Mount Hooker, 16,760 feet; Mount Brown, 16,000 feet; and Mount Murchison, 15,700 feet.

The principal rivers are the St. Lawrence (with its tributaries, the Ottawa, the St. Maurice, the Richelieu and the Saguenay), the St. John, the Restigouche and the Miramichi rivers, flowing into the Atlantic Ocean; the Mackenzie, Coppermine and Great Fish rivers emptying into the Arctic Ocean; the Saskatchewan and Red, the Nelson, Churchill and Albany rivers flowing into the Hudson Bay; the Fraser and Columbia emptying into the Pacific Ocean.

Hudson Bay is a large inland sea, having an area of 350,000 square miles. Including its two arms it has an extreme length north and south of 1,000 miles, and a width across the bay proper of about 600 miles.

The Bay of Fundy, 170 miles long, and from 30 to 50 miles wide, nearly separates Nova Scotia from New Brunswick, the connecting Isthmus of Chignecto being about 15 miles wide.

The principal islands in Canada are Baffin Land, Prince Albert Land (which are the principal islands in the district of Franklin), Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia; Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island and Anticosti in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The climate varies greatly. The average mean temperature is—in Prince Edward Island, summer, 61·9 degrees F., and 19·5 in winter; New Brunswick, summer, 60 degrees, and winter 19·0; Nova Scotia, summer, 65·2, and winter 25·0; Quebec, 58·3 summer, and 15· winter; Ontario, 63·0 summer, and 19·8 winter; Manitoba, 60·1 summer, and 0·8 winter; British Columbia, summer 61·, and winter 32·4.

In a general view Canada consists of the mountainous region of the west; the prairie country between the Rocky Mountains and Hudson Bay, and the woodland region comprising the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The width of these several belts, east and west is; Mountain, 600 miles; prairie, 1,000; woodland, 2,300.

The great spruce forest of Canada extends through all the eastern provinces, goes as far north as Ungava Bay on the east side of Hudson Bay, and as far north and north-west, on the west side of Hudson Bay as Coronation Gulf and the mouths of the Mackenzie River,—thus constituting one of the greatest pulp wood regions in the world.