

The first formal addition was Manitoba, a minuscule (14,350 sq. miles), postage-stamp-like province formed around the nucleus of the Red River Settlement. Of greater ultimate significance was the transfer at that time of title to the vast lands of the Hudson's Bay Company, first chartered two centuries before. This brought under Canadian sovereignty the region of Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory, much of it still *terra incognita*. A year later British Columbia was added, establishing for the first time the 60th parallel of latitude as the northern limit of a province, a line to become eventually a major feature of the map of Canada and to be demarcated on the ground with great precision from the Pacific Ocean to Hudson Bay. The addition of Prince Edward Island in 1873 rounded out the Maritime Provinces—but Newfoundland (including Labrador) was not to join Confederation until 1949. Thus, the familiar outline of provincial and territorial boundaries fell into place relatively quickly and all (except Newfoundland) have now been in existence for more than half a century. Alberta and Saskatchewan date from 1905 and Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec reached their present limits in 1912. What of the surviving portion of the old Northwest Territories lying beyond the 60th parallel? Early uncertainty as to the northward extent of Canada had been ended with cession by Britain in 1880 of the islands lying north of the mainland. To the west of the Mackenzie River basin lay Yukon Territory, of which the boundaries were first drawn in 1895. By 1912 the Northwest Territories had attained its present limits. Except for the change in the status of Newfoundland, the political map of Canada was stabilized within 45 years of Confederation. In this, of course, are considered only lines on maps or definitions in legal documents; conditions on the ground itself were far less clearly known, since there remained large unexplored areas not only in the Far North but well within the limits of the provinces themselves.

In territorial extent, Canada relatively early on became a large but compact country extending from Atlantic to Pacific in the higher latitudes, and also fronting on the Arctic Ocean. Two minor aspects of its external limits should be mentioned. In the west, Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia are excluded from actual contact with the ocean by a southerly extension of Alaska, the so-called "panhandle." The seaward extent of Canadian sovereignty in the Far North has been less than precisely known. Canadian maps have customarily shown lines extending from the easterly and westerly limits of the country along the 60th and 141st lines of longitude as far as the North Pole, with the declared intention of claiming any new lands that may be found within these limits. In view of the advanced state of geographical knowledge in the Arctic today, the lines are probably no longer significant.

Filling in the map of Canada with topographical detail has been a long and exacting task, which remains far from completed. Exploration began (if one excludes the pioneering travels of Indians and Eskimos) about a thousand years ago with the arrival of Vikings from Greenland. Details of their discoveries, and those of others who may have followed them until the fifteenth century, have not survived but the records of later voyages include some of the most illustrious navigators and explorers in history. Canada has been singularly fortunate in its geographical pioneers—the Cabots, Cartier, Frobisher, Davis, Hudson, Baffin, Cook, Thompson, Ross, Franklin, Sverdrup, Amundsen, Stefansson and many others.

A pattern of exploration evolved which was determined by the initial approach from Europe and the configuration of the Atlantic shoreline. The St. Lawrence estuary invited search and this led on to the Great Lakes and the interior of the Continent and then by waterways to the northwest, to the Arctic and to the Pacific. Farther north, the search for a western sea and the route to Asia led by way of Hudson Strait into the Bay, but failure to find an outlet there forced the search still farther north, through Davis Strait and Baffin Bay and then westward, where it was long frustrated by the complex of islands and narrow channels and by the summer ice.

In the south, the old westward route from the St. Lawrence was eventually followed up in the railway era, when the Canadian Pacific skirted the Great Lakes route to the Red River and then struck out across the prairies to the Rocky Mountains where river