

FC 32
C 36
111
144

Canada in Brief



CANADA, from the Iroquois *Kanada* cahn, is rather a misnomer for a country of such vastness, covering more than half the continent of North America, and reaching from the latitude of Southern Europe to the North Pole, having a circuitous coast line upon the Atlantic of 10,000 miles, and upon the Pacific, with its deep inlets, many islands and secure harbors of almost as great length, extending upwards of 3,000 miles from east to west, and 1,600 miles from north to south, and comprising an area of 3,745,574 square miles, exceeding that of the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands) by 5,640 square miles; a country nearly equal to the whole of Europe and embracing one-third of the British Empire. A country concerning the farm lands of which, in its Western Provinces alone, it has been suggested that if it were possible to convert their area into a strip of a mile in width, and a railroad constructed thereon, it would take a train travelling night and day without stop, at a speed of 40 miles per hour, a period of four years to complete the journey from terminus to terminus. Its first reputed discovery antedates Columbus by several hundred years, the Norseman Bjarni Herjulfson sighting its coasts in 986 followed by Lief Ericson in 1000; but John Cabot in 1497, and Jacques Cartier in 1534, were the first effectual explorers. Though abundantly able to sustain a population of 100,000,000, the present inhabitants number but 6,000,000, which are, however, being rapidly augmented by emigration from Europe and the Western States. Ontario numbers 2,250,000, Quebec 1,750,000, the Maritime Provinces 1,000,000, and the Western Provinces 1,000,000.

The poetic name of "Our Lady of the Snows" is likewise manifestly erroneous for a land which lies largely in the Temperate Zone, and possesses a climate ranging from the clear, dry, bracing winters and summer heat of the St. Lawrence Valley, to the delightful evenness of the Pacific Coast. A country of diversified Flora and Fauna, abounding in many valuable fur-bearing animals, embracing the greatest forest region of the world, yielding untold millions of feet of the finest lumber annually; a land of vast mineral resources, possessing the Gold of the Klondike and the Silver of Cobalt, the immense Coal fields of Nova Scotia, British Columbia and the newer Western Provinces; almost the monopoly of Asbestos, great quantities of Nickel, Iron, Lead, Petroleum and Salt, as well as Gypsum, Graphite, Pyrites, Mica, Lime and Marl; possessing fisheries yielding many millions of dollars annually, and millions upon millions of acres of highly cultivated farm lands, producing fruit and grains famous the world over, and giving sustenance to stock having enviable reputation for the purity of its breeds; and yet millions upon millions of other acres, the virgin soil of which is year by year being broken to swell the production of mountains of golden grain; manufactories of bewildering variety, the products of which find their way to the inerts of the uttermost parts of the globe; natural water power of inestimable value, of which the Niagara and Ottawa are but examples; unequalled transportation facilities afforded by great natural waterways, supplemented by complete canal systems and gigantic transcontinental railroads; an ever-expanding commerce; an elastic and stable banking system; high moral and commercial standards; splendid facilities for public school and higher education, the former of which is compulsory; equitable laws, impartially administered, and private rights safeguarded; the quiet, peaceful possession of all this vast heritage of immeasurable wealth guaranteed beneath the spreading folds of the Union Jack! The contemplation causes the blood to pulsate more rapidly through our veins, while we feel commendable satisfaction with our happy lot, and the gratefulness to the Beneficent Providence which has permitted us, either by birth or adoption, to claim a share in the future of this great land and all that is implied in the name "Canadian."—Capt. J. W. Fuller, London, Canada.