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CANADA

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Canada is one of the newer nations and the oldest land in the world. Billions of years ago, when the earth was overlaid with water and the air thick with mist, the first crust emerged from the sea — the rim of desolate rock that surrounds Hudson Bay.

Great things and small would be built upon it, the Hudson's Bay Company among them. Man came recently and reluctantly. In the mid-nineteenth century the British historian Sir Archibald Alison concluded that "probably seven-eighths of the immense surface of British North America are doomed to eternal sterility from the excessive severity of the climate, which yields only a scanty herbage to the reindeer, the elk and the musk-ox." Sir Archibald was wrong. The economic wealth of nations, at least in the latter half of the twentieth century, is most often found in the old, old, original rock.

Mining

