

Imagine Europe, all of Europe, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains, as a single country, but with a population of only 23 million, little more than that of the Benelux countries.

Canada answers that description, and yet even Canadians do not always realize that when Newfoundlanders sit down for their noon meal, their fellow citizens in the Yukon, six time zones away, may be just rising for the day.

North to south, Canada's vast territory extends almost from the North Pole to the 45th parallel. East to west the country stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific (*a mari usque ad mare*—Canada's motto), each coast guarded by great islands: Newfoundland facing Europe and Vancouver Island facing Asia. Linking the two coasts is the Trans-Canada Highway, the longest in the world—a ribbon of concrete and asphalt 9,600 km long, about the distance from one end of Africa to the other.

These millions of square kilometres are not, of course, fully inhabited. Even today, 89 per cent of

millions
of people

