

rence system are other vast lakes, such as the Great Slave Lake, with an area of 10,000 miles; Lake Winnipeg, 9,400 miles in area; Lake of the Woods, 1,500 miles; Lake Manitoba, 1,900 miles; Great Bear Lake, 11,200 miles; Athabasca, 4,400 miles; and Lake Winnipegosis, with a surface area of 2,030 square miles.

The River St. Lawrence, with its lakes and unrivalled system of ship canals, enables shipping to penetrate 2,384 miles into the heart of the continent; and its chief tributary, the Ottawa, has a length of no less than 780 miles. The water route from the Atlantic via the St. Lawrence system to the head of Lake Superior is within a hundred miles as long as that traversed by steamships between Canadian and an Irish port. The total area of the United Kingdom, including its adjacent islands, is 120,979 square miles, while the water area of Canada alone totals 140,736 square miles without including Hudson's Bay, which itself has an area of 350,000 square miles, and has an extreme length of 1,250 miles and width of 600 miles, while the distance from John o' Groats to Land's End is but 628 miles.

The Provinces of the East, or the Acadian region, have rivers of large size. The St. John River drains an area of 26,000 square miles, one half of which is in the Canadian Province of New Brunswick. Other rivers of considerable magnitude are the Restigouche and the Miramichi.

West and north of the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries are many rivers of large size. In the Territories and Manitoba are the Mackenzie (2,400 miles in length), the Copper Mine and Great Fish Rivers, which flow into the Arctic Ocean; the Saskatchewan River (1,500 miles); the Red River and its tributary, the Assiniboine, which flow into Lake Winnipeg, discharging thence through the Nelson River and the Churchill; the Haye and other rivers, which flow into the Hudson Bay, draining into it the waters of an area estimated at 370,000 square miles. In British Columbia are the Fraser River and the Columbia (1,200 miles), and in the Yukon District is the Yukon River, 2,300 miles long, which carries off the surplus waters of a great tract of country in Canada before flowing into the sea on the western side of the United States District of Alaska. Connected with these and other rivers are lakes of large size. Lake of the Woods (1,500 square miles), Lake Manitoba (1,900 miles), Great Bear Lake (11,200), Great Slave Lake (10,000), Athabasca (4,400), Winnipeg Lake (9,400), Winnipegosis (2,030).

The following table gives an idea of the size of the chief lakes of Canada:

	LENGTH MILES	BREADTH MILES	DEPTH FEET	ELEVATION ABOVE SEA	AREA IN SQUARE MILES
Lake Superior	460	170	800	600	31,500
" Michigan	330	90	700	576	22,000
" Huron	260	110	700	574	21,000
" Erie	250	60	200	565	9,000
" Ontario	180	60	600	235	6,400
" Winnipeg	280	30	...	650	8,500
" Manitoba	120	16	...	670	1,900
" Winnipegosis	120	17	...	692	1,936

The great advantage possessed by Canada over her older and more populous neighbor to the south with respect to natural means of communication received eloquent demonstration at an early stage of the Continent's development. Exploration, like everything else, moves along the lines of least resistance and greedily seizes advantage of the most feasible routes. And so it happened that the first parties to penetrate to the centre of North America, to discover and explore the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, the vast western prairies and the Rocky Mountains, were composed of colonists of New France, then a very insignificant outpost so far as regards population compared with the thriving colonies of New England, Maryland, Virginia and New Amsterdam.

The importance of Canada's superior natural means of communication made a great impression upon the mind of Sir William White, past-president of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Great Britain, during his recent visit to Canada with the members of that important body, and since his return to England he has placed on record the following opinion: "The profound penetration and permeation of the country by waterways is the great characteristic of Canada. The extent of the shipping and trade of the lakes is hardly realized here, or the importance attaching to possession of traffic from the lakes to the open sea."