

of its water area. It consists of seven provinces, four provisional territories, and a vast area to the north, mostly unexplored. The settled portions of the country are now bound together by railways, and a visitor may take a car at the eastern boundary at Halifax and travel comfortably without change of cars through to the shores of the Pacific, a distance of 3,662 miles.

Position of the Provinces and Territories.

The three most easterly or Maritime Provinces, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, form a group surrounded and more or less intersected by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Following these to the westward come the large and important provinces of Quebec and Ontario, the former extending north-westward to beyond Lake Nipissing, the latter stretching its boundaries westward along the margins of the Great Lakes—Ontario, Erie, Huron and Superior—until its western limit is found beyond the Lake of the Woods. There, Ontario joins the prairie province of Manitoba, west of which lie the four large provisional territories, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Athabasca. Still further west is British Columbia, enclosing a large area, where there is a combination of mountains and valleys extending to the Pacific Ocean, abounding in minerals, coal and timber. Most of the valleys are very fertile, with favourable conditions for the growing of agricultural crops or the raising of fruit, and many of these valleys are being rapidly converted into smiling fields and prolific orchards.

North of British Columbia lies the Yukon district, noted for its wonderful deposits of gold, extending to Alaska; and eastward from this are the other great northern divisions of the country, known as Mackenzie, Keewatin, Franklin and Ungava, comprising in all about 1,500,000 square miles, exclusive of the water area. Of these vast regions, very little is yet known.

Beginning with the easterly limit of the Dominion, reference will first be made to the province of