



REFERENCE PAPERS

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CANADA: A LAND FOR NEW CITIZENSThe Land

Canada encompasses a huge territory. It is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere, and third in size among the nations of the world. Canada covers almost half a continent, and includes the northern archipelago which extends practically to the Pole. The total area -- more than 3,800,000 square miles (9,842,000 square kilometers) -- is slightly larger than that of all Europe.

St. John's on the Atlantic coast of Canada is closer to Antwerp than it is to Vancouver on the Pacific coast. From east to west the boundary with the United States is almost 4,000 miles (6,440 kilometers) in length. From north to south Canada extends nearly 3,000 miles (4,830 kilometers) from the polar regions to the latitude of the Mediterranean.

Its Resources

Abundant and varied natural resources are found in every region. There are more than 500,000 square miles (1,295,000 square kilometers) of fertile land; great stands of timber in more than 1,000,000 square miles (2,590,000 square kilometers) of forest; extensive mineral deposits, including gold, radium, and the world's greatest sources of nickel and asbestos; almost limitless supplies of hydro-electric power; about one third of the fresh water in the world; and extensive marine and inland fisheries.

The People

The greater part of this immense land is sparsely inhabited, and Canada's population of fourteen millions is largely concentrated within 200 miles (322 kilometers) of the southern border. But the crop limit in different areas, which enjoy a mean summer temperature of 57° Fahrenheit (13.8° Centigrade), extends far north of this; Canada's huge northern territories beyond this crop limit are still largely undeveloped.

Old Inhabitants and New

Canada's population of fourteen millions can be roughly divided into three main groups, all of European origin. English and French, the two official languages of Canada, indicate the largest of these. The third is a composite group of other European peoples.

Persons of British stock account for slightly less than one-half of the total population. Included in this group are the descendants of immigrants from the British Isles, of the United Empire Loyalists who migrated to Canada after the American Revolution, and more recent