

CHAPTER I.

Canada's Natural Maritime Advantages.

THE DOMINION'S EXTENDED COAST LINE—HER INNUMERABLE HARBOURS AND UNRIVALLED INLAND WATERWAYS—LAKES AND RIVERS WHICH CONTAIN MORE THAN HALF THE FRESH WATER ON THE GLOBE.

FAVORED by nature in so many respects, Canada has no more valuable natural asset than the heritage of the extended coast lines and the unrivalled systems of inland waterways which appear destined to make her one of the greatest maritime nations of the world.

Not only do the exceptional natural facilities for inland traffic and ocean trade afford ready and economical means of communication between the distant parts of this great confederation of British American provinces, and facilitate the means of marketing the products of the Canadian grain fields, mines, and forests; they are attracting to Canadian routes an ever-increasing proportion of the carrying trade of the North-western States, in many respects the most productive section of the United States.

The natural market for the surplus production of North America, —Canada as well as the United States,—is Europe, and trade seeks the shortest route between producer and consumer. The chief sea-port of Canada, Montreal, although 986 miles inland, and even although 250 miles above salt water, is 315 miles nearer to Liverpool than the chief sea-port of the United States, New York. And likewise Sydney, Halifax, St. John and all of the other Atlantic coast ports of Canada are from 600 to 900 miles nearer to Europe than New York, Boston, Portland, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or any other of the United States ports. The Canadian mail steamships, though not specially constructed and subsidized to make record-breaking passages, now carry their passengers between Moville and Rimouski, or in winter between Moville and Halifax, where the mails are landed, in about the same average time as the United States lines do between Queenstown and New York. The tremendous geographical advantage possessed by Canadian sea-ports is of course due to the inclination of the North American coast line as it extends northward towards the east, and to the shortening

of the circles of latitude the more distant they are from the equator. Fort Churchill on the western coast of Hudson Bay, right in the heart of the continent at its broadest part, being in fact further west than Minneapolis, is actually 637 miles nearer to Liverpool than New York, the figures being 2,926 miles as against 3,563 miles.

The following figures give distances between important Canadian and American ports and British seaports:

	MILES.
Rimouski to Moville.....	2,490
Halifax to Moville.....	2,340
St. John to Moville.....	2,600
Montreal to Moville.....	2,786
New York to Queenstown.....	2,795
New York to Southampton.....	3,110
Montreal to Quebec.....	139
Quebec to Rimouski.....	157
Montreal to Rimouski.....	296
Moville to Liverpool.....	190
Queenstown to Liverpool.....	253

A glance at the map is all that is necessary to obtain an idea of the wonderful harbor accommodation obtainable around the coasts of Canada, due to the markedly indented character of the shore lines. Hudson Bay on the north is really a great inland sea, with James Bay at its southern end. It is 1,250 miles in its greatest length and 550 miles in greatest breadth. The eastern sea-coast of the Maritime Provinces, from the Bay of Fundy to the Strait of Belle Isle, covers a distance of 5,600 miles, while the western sea-coast of British Columbia is reckoned at 7,180 miles; the fresh water area of that part of the Great Lakes belonging to Canada is computed at 72,700 square miles, not including the numerous lakes of Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

Unquestionably the most prominent physical feature of the Dominion is its marvellous system of inland waterways. Canada contains very much more than half of the fresh water upon the globe. The St. Lawrence River, with its vast lacustrine expansions, which are really fresh water seas, is perhaps the most marked, as it is one of the most useful physical features of the country. Lake Superior has a water surface area of 31,800 square miles; Lake Huron, 23,200; Erie, 10,030; Ontario, 7,260; Lake St. Clair, 445; and Lake Simcoe, 300. Altogether the area of lake surface connected with the St. Lawrence is over 75,000 miles. And to the west and north-west of the St. Law-