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EXTENSION OF PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES.

In 1908 the Government of Canada proposed to extend the boundaries of the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba by the addition to each of a part of the territory of Keewatin, and to add to Quebec the territory of Ungava. In order to have the proposal carried out it was necessary to have it accepted by the provinces concerned, but at the time Manitoba and Ontario declined. Representatives of the former province desired to have settlement of other questions notably the amount of the annual subsidy, before accepting the new territory, and Ontario felt that she was unfairly treated in the division, an extraordinary boundary line being run between her and the sister province to the west. At the session of parliament just ended, the provinces being agreeable, the proposed extension of four years ago has been enacted into law.

By the enactment Quebec receives 354,981 square miles and becomes the largest province or state in North America. Manitoba, the former "postage stamp" province, receives 178,100 square miles, and Ontario 146,400.

According to statistics published by the Department of the Interior, the three largest provinces now are Quebec, 706,834 square miles; Ontario, 407,262; and British Columbia, 357,600. These areas are, of course only approximate. The largest state in the Union is Texas, with 265,780 square miles, then follow in order of size California, with 158,360, and Montana, with 146,080.

The additions to Ontario and Quebec extend immensely their prospective mining fields, and bring under the mining laws and regulations of these provinces vast regions, which up to the present have been subject to the "order-in-council" regulations of the Dominion, there being no federal mines act.

The early construction of a railway to Hudson Bay, to which both of the great parties in the House of Commons appear to be committed, will make readily accessible to the prospector and the explorer the regions surrounding our inland sea. It also seems likely that a branch line will be built from the Transcontinental Railway to James Bay, the southern extremity of Hudson Bay. The accessible prospecting and mining territory of Canada will thus be more than doubled. Both Ontario and Quebec should reap the benefit of increased mineral output.

At present Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, unlike British Columbia and the older provinces, do not control the natural resources—land, timber, and minerals—within their borders, these resources being