

PART III. COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF OTHER COUNTRIES

CHAPTER XVIII

CANADA

234. Chief regions. Canada and the United States alike span the continent and face the chief nations of Europe and Asia. On the east both have an indented shore, with many harbors. Tidewaters enter more deeply into Canada, but this advantage is offset by the freezing of the St. Lawrence in the winter. In the west the Canadian shore line is more broken, and, as the Pacific climate is mild, harbors are available far to the north. Canada has the advantage of short degrees of longitude in her more northern position, and thus offers a shorter route between Europe and the Orient. The land is not nearly so arctic as many suppose. It is limited, however, to products of temperate latitudes, while the United States raises much that belongs to sub-tropical regions. This difference must always affect the import trade of Canada.

Canada may be divided into five regions.

1. The Archæan wilderness, a region of ancient rocks and much-worn mountains, taking in Labrador, northern Quebec, much of Ontario north of the Great Lakes, and a broad belt west of Hudson Bay, running northward and including the islands of the arctic seas. Mineral deposits, furs, and forests are nearly all that is of interest to commerce, except water powers, in this region, and all of these but minerals are absent when the barren lands of the far north are reached.