



SOOKE LAKE, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

## DOMINION OF CANADA.

Area, 3,470,392 square miles; about as large as Europe, and comprising nearly one-sixteenth part of the land surface of the globe. Greatest extent from east to west, 3,500 miles, and from north to south, about 1,400 miles; population, 4,324,810.

The **Dominion of Canada** is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean and Baffin's Bay; on the west by the Territory of Alaska, belonging to the United States, and the Pacific Ocean; on the south by the United States and the Great Lakes; and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean.

The Dominion of Canada comprises the whole of British North America, except the Island of Newfoundland and the peninsula of Labrador, and consists of the Provinces of

Ontario,  
Quebec,  
New Brunswick,  
Nova Scotia,

Prince Edward Island,  
Manitoba,  
British Columbia.

the Districts of Keewatin, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Athabasca, and the North-west and North-east Territories, formerly called the Hudson Bay Territory.

The chief physical features of the Dominion are:

In the west, the **Rocky Mountains**, extending from the Arctic Ocean to the United States, from north to south, and the parallel range of the **Cascade Mountains**, near the Pacific Coast, both of which here attain their highest elevations.

In the centre, the great northern slope towards the Arctic Ocean, with its numerous lakes, rivers, and marshy tracts, chiefly drained by the **Mackenzie** and **Great Fish Rivers**; and the large inland sea, Hudson Bay, from which that part of the country formerly derived its name.

In the east, the great chain of Lakes marking the boundary between Canada and the United States, containing nearly one-half of the fresh water on the globe, and forming, with the **River St. Lawrence**, an unbroken chain of water communication for over 2,000 miles.

In the eastern and western portions of the Dominion, the country is well wooded, and timber is largely exported; but the centre consists of an immense tract of level or gently undulating prairie land, with only a few trees along the courses of the rivers, but producing abundance of nutritious grasses.

Although comprising such an extensive area, the settled portion of the Dominion is very small, consisting chiefly of a long narrow strip of land, seldom exceeding 100 miles in breadth, along the Lakes and the River St. Lawrence in Ontario and Quebec; the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island; Manitoba, which was only admitted as a province in 1870; Vancouver Island in the west, and a few settlements along the course of the Fraser River in British Columbia.

The principal mountain ranges of Canada are the **Rocky Mountains** and the **Cascade Range**, in British Columbia; the **Witchish Mountains**, between Quebec and the North-east Territory; the **Notre Dame Mountains**, a continuation of the Appalachian chain in Quebec;