

deposits particularly of copper-gold ore. About three-fifths of the area of this province is underlain by the Precambrian rocks which have been found so rich in minerals in northern Ontario and northern Quebec.

Saskatchewan.—This central prairie province lies between Manitoba and Alberta; it reaches to the International Boundary on the south and its northerly limit is the 60th parallel of latitude, which divides it from the Northwest Territories. The area, of which about 89 p.c. lies south of the isotherm of 60°F. mean July temperature,* is 251,700 square miles, approximating that of Manitoba, and greater by 5,000 square miles than the combined areas of the British Isles and Norway. With the exception of a point of the Precambrian rocks jutting in from the east at the Height of Land, well to the north, and again covering a narrow strip along the northern boundary, the whole of the province is overlain by generally fertile soil of great depth. The greater part of the developed area in the south is comprised in the great treeless prairie belt, fringed to the north with a zone of poplar, interspersed with open prairie, which gradually changes into the northern mixed forest covering all the northerly parts. Apart from the southern prairies, which are extraordinarily smooth, the surface topography is generally of low relief and with a general rising slope towards the west. The bulk of the province has a general elevation of between 1,000 and 2,000 feet, with the maximum elevation of about 4,500 feet on the eastern point of the Cypress hills in the southwest corner. The climate is quite different from that of Eastern Canada, with less precipitation and perhaps slightly more severe features than are encountered in many other parts of the country, but is nevertheless most favourable to plant and animal growth. The northern districts, abundantly watered by lakes and rivers, are rich in timber resources and have prospective mineral wealth, while the southern plains include a large portion of the wonderful western wheat fields.

Alberta.—Lying between Saskatchewan on the east, and the Rocky mountains and the 120th meridian on the west, and bounded on the north and south by the Northwest Territories and the United States respectively, is the province of Alberta. Its area is slightly greater than that of Saskatchewan or Manitoba, comprising a total of 255,285 square miles, of which about 90 p.c. lies south of the isotherm of 60° F. mean July temperature.* The area of the province is over 8,600 square miles greater than the combined areas of the British Isles and Norway. Like Saskatchewan, the southern part of the province is comprised in the dry treeless prairie belt, changing to the north into a zone of poplar interspersed with open prairie, which again gives way to the northern mixed forest covering the northerly parts. The Precambrian rocks just touch Alberta at its northeast corner, so that excepting the fringe of mountainous country on its western border the whole of the province is overlain by arable soil of great depth. Alberta has two marked features: (1) the great valley of the Peace river, which has already resulted in the extension of settlement farther north than in any other part of Canada, and (2) the wonderful grazing lands in the foothills district, which, rising sharply on the west, commences the ascent which continues to the very peaks of the Rocky mountains. The southern half of the province, rising toward the west, lies at a general elevation of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet; but in the northern half the slope descends until elevations of well under 1,000 feet are reached at lake Athabaska in the northeast corner. Mount Columbia, with an elevation of 12,294 feet, is the highest point in the province. Considerable coal and oil mining are carried on, lumbering is important in the more mountainous western parts and in the north, while some ranching is still pursued in

*See footnote, p. 3.