

60° F. mean July temperature,* is 412,582 square miles, of which its fresh-water area of 49,300 square miles forms the unusually large proportion of 12 p.c. The province is over 17,000 square miles greater in area than are France and Germany together, and when compared with the States to the south, Ontario is found to be almost equal in extent to the combined areas of the six New England States, together with New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Excepting in the southwestern part, the surface conformity of Ontario is influenced by the characteristics of the Precambrian rocks. In northern Ontario a large area with elevations of 1,000 feet or over adjoins the north shore of the Great Lakes and going north a short distance over the Height of Land the slope descends very gently to Hudson bay, which has a wide marginal strip less than 500 feet above sea-level. The highest point in Ontario is 2,120 feet, on the promontory at the northeastern corner of lake Superior. The whole province supports a valuable covering of trees, varying from south to north, from the mixed forest to the eastern and northern coniferous. Many varieties of climate and soil are encountered, from the distinctively southern conditions found along the shores of lake Erie to the very different ones of Hudson and James bays. Ontario, of all the provinces of Canada, is the centre of the country's manufacturing life, owing to its abundant water-power resources and its proximity to the coal fields of Pennsylvania, but the many resources of its rural districts are not on this account neglected. Mining is an important industry in the Sudbury, Porcupine, and Kirkland Lake districts, the nickel coming from the Sudbury field amounting to 90 p.c. of the world production, while as regards gold production the province ranks first in Canada. Fruit farming in the Niagara district and general farming throughout the entire southern part of the province are carried on extensively under unusually favourable conditions, while timber, pulp and furs are among the most important products of more northern parts.

Manitoba.—Manitoba, the most easterly of the Prairie Provinces, and also the oldest of them in point of settlement, includes the area between Ontario on the east and Saskatchewan on the west. Its southerly limit is the International Boundary, while its northerly boundary is the 60th parallel of latitude and Hudson bay, where its coast of over 400 miles includes the harbour and port of Churchill. The total area of Manitoba, of which about 56 p.c. lies south of the isotherm of 60° F. mean July temperature,* is 246,512 square miles—3,246 square miles greater than twice the total area of the British Isles. The conformity of the surface of Manitoba is quite even; commencing on the north with a strip bordering on Hudson bay perhaps 100 miles wide and less than 500 feet in elevation, the surface rises gradually towards the west and south. The bulk of the province has an elevation of between 500 and 1,000 feet, with the greatest height of 2,727 feet attained in Duck mountain, northwest of lake Dauphin. East and north of lake Winnipeg the Precambrian formation intrudes, producing a rock formation, but the remainder of the province is overlain by very fertile soil of great depth. The treeless prairie belt extends into the southwest corner of the province, but the greater portion of the developed area is in the grove belt, characterized by groves of poplar interspersed with open prairie patches; to the north there are great areas of northern mixed forest, blending into the northern coniferous, which thin again to some treeless areas along the coast line farther north. The province has been regarded as typically agricultural, its southern lands being specially adapted to this form of industry. Its northern districts, however, are of importance in the production of timber and also contain large mineral

* See footnote, p. 3.