

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 furs and its numerous large lakes in the production of fresh-water fish, chiefly whitefish. 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 Quebec. Two large deposits of copper-gold-zinc ore have been developed, south of the Churchill river near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary, while to the east and north of lake Winnipeg recent years have witnessed great activity in the prospecting and development of gold properties, a number of which are now producing. The province also possesses important water-power resources in the rivers of the Precambrian area.

Saskatchewan.—This central prairie province lies between Manitoba and Alberta; it extends from the International Boundary on the south to 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. Approximately one-third of the total area, generally lying north of the Churchill river, is underlain by the Precambrian rocks which have been found so richly mineralized in other parts of Canada. The Flinflon copper-gold-zinc deposit on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary is an evidence of economic mineralization in the east, while in the Lake Athabaska region of the northwest promising discoveries of gold have been made recently. The northern districts, abundantly watered by lakes and rivers, in addition to potential mineral wealth, are rich in timber resources while the southerly two-thirds of the province overlain by generally fertile soil of great depth includes a large portion of the famous western wheat fields. The larger 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 with a gradually 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 in the southern parts is quite different from that of Eastern Canada, with less precipitation and perhaps more severe features than are encountered in many other parts of the country, but is nevertheless most favourable to plant growth, when sufficient moisture is available.

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

* See footnote, p. 3.