

Precambrian rocks just touch Alberta at its northeast corner, so that, excepting the fringe of mountainous country on its western border, practically 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, commence the ascent which continues to the very peaks of the Rocky mountains. The southern half of the province, rising towards 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. Alberta has the most extensive coal resources of any province of the Dominion and has also become the leading producer of petroleum and natural gas. Lumbering is important in the more mountainous western parts and in the north, but ranching is still pursued in the less populous sections. In the southern prairies there are considerable areas where the quantity and distribution of the natural precipitation makes permanent agriculture precarious and in these areas a number of large irrigation projects have been developed, taking their water supply from rivers rising in the mountains which form the western boundary of the province. The climate of Alberta is a particularly pleasant one, cooler in summer than more eastern parts of the country and tempered in winter by the "Chinook" winds.

*British Columbia.*—British Columbia, the most westerly province of the Dominion, comprises an area of 366,255 square miles, slightly more than three times the area of the British Isles. The predominant feature of the province is the parallel ranges of mountains which cover all of it except the northeast corner and produce a conformation characterized by high mountain ranges interspaced with valleys, many of which are extremely fertile, with climatic conditions well adapted to mixed agriculture or fruit growing. Apart from the smoother area in the northeast corner which extends up from the "Peace River Block" there is another notably large area of smoother terrain in the Stuart Lake district, traversed by the Canadian National railway running west from Fort George to Prince Rupert. The highest point in the province is mount Fairweather (15,287 feet). The shore line of the Pacific is deeply indented with many inlets ideal for harbourage and with wonderful scenic aspects. With two ocean ports served by transcontinental railways, British Columbia is well situated and equipped to carry on trade with the Orient, and its great stands of fir, spruce, and cedar timber constitute a natural resource of great value. The province includes many islands of the Pacific, notably the Queen Charlotte group and Vancouver island; the latter, with an area of about 12,408 square miles, is noted for its temperate climate and abundant natural resources. The wealth of the forest resources supports the lumbering and pulp and paper industries and puts British Columbia ahead of any other province in the production of lumber and timber. The province also excels in fishery products, chiefly on account of its catches of the famous Pacific salmon. The mineral resources are remarkable for their variety and wealth. The production of the metals, gold, copper, silver, lead, and zinc, has played an important role in the economic life of the province since its early days, while valuable coal deposits on Vancouver island, and at Crowsnest and Fernie in the interior, have been worked for many years. The boundaries of the province extend from Alberta on the east to the Pacific ocean and Alaska on the west, and from the International Boundary northward to Yukon.

*Yukon Territory.*—Yukon Territory, with an area of 207,076 square miles, is the most western part of Canada and its time is nine hours later than Greenwich. It