

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. Most 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 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; 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 boundaries of the Province extend from Alberta on the east to the Pacific Ocean and Alaska on the west, and from the International

\* See footnote, p. 3.