

Boundary northward to Yukon. 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.

Yukon Territory.—Yukon Territory extends from British Columbia on the south to the Arctic Ocean on the north and from the Northwest Territories on the east to Alaska on the west. The meridian of longitude 141° W., the western boundary of the Territory, is also the most westerly extent of the Dominion. Its area is 207,076 square miles or slightly more than one-half that of Ontario.

The greater part of the Yukon Territory is mountainous although in the extreme north and southeast the relief is low. The mountainous part is divided into a number of ranges and a central plateau area, all of which exhibit a general north-west trend. The St. Elias Mountains in the southwest are the highest mountains in Canada and, in Mount Logan (19,850 feet elevation), contain the second highest peak in North America. The Coast Mountains lie northeast of the St. Elias Mountains and are followed by the Yukon Plateau, which is bounded on the east and north by the Mackenzie Mountains and their western spur, the Ogilvie Range. The Plateau, which covers most of the southern part of the Territory, is isolated on three sides by mountains through which there is no natural easy route of access; it contains a number of isolated mountain ranges distributed over it, with peaks of 6,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation. Otherwise the higher levels of the Plateau are from 4,000 to 5,000 feet. This plateau area forms the central part of the basin of the Yukon River that drains the central and western parts of the Territory to the Bering Sea, 1,100 miles distant. The territory to the east is drained by the tributaries of the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean; that to the southwest by the Alsek River to the Pacific Ocean. The tributaries of the Yukon River within the plateau area form 1,250 miles of connected waterways, navigable by stern-wheel steamboats. After the discovery of rich deposits of alluvial gold, a railway was built from tidewater at Skagway on the Alaskan coast over the Coast Mountains by