

timber limits, which form the basis of a great pulp and paper industry (see Chapter IX), Quebec is the foremost of the provinces in the development of hydro-electric power (see Chapter XIII) and has available water-power resources, at ordinary minimum flow, almost equal to those of Ontario and Manitoba combined. Its asbestos deposits have long been known for their quality and extent and promise to become still more important as a possible source of magnesium as a by-product. Relatively recently, extensive developments of gold and copper in the western part of the Province have taken place and the mineralized area is being extended year by year. Quebec is in second place in mineral production among the provinces of the Dominion (see Chapter XII). Its fisheries in the St. Lawrence River and Gulf are an important resource. The climate and soil of the upper St. Lawrence Valley and of the Eastern Townships are well suited to general farming operations, including dairying and the production of vegetables on a commercial basis.

Ontario.—Lying between Quebec on the east and Manitoba on the west, Ontario is usually regarded as an inland province but its southern boundary has a fresh-water shore line on the Great Lakes of 2,362 miles while its northern limits have a salt-water shore line of 680 miles on Hudson and James Bays. There is a tidal port at Moosonee at the southern end of James Bay. The most southerly point in the Province is Middle Island at $41^{\circ} 41' N.$ latitude (this is also the most southerly point in the Dominion) and the most northerly latitude of the Province is $56^{\circ} 50'$. It has an area of 412,582 square miles.

As in Quebec, the surface of Ontario follows the conformation characteristic of the Precambrian Shield except in the Ontario Peninsula where the surface is low and level. The highest point in Ontario is 2,120 feet, on the promontory at the northeastern corner of Lake Superior. Northwest from the Height of Land, the slope descends very gently to Hudson Bay where a large marginal strip (the Hudson Bay Lowlands) is less than 500 feet above sea-level.

Mining is a very important industry in the wide-spread Precambrian area; as in the adjoining Province of Quebec, Ontario is lacking in native coal but is rich in other minerals and contributes almost half of the total mineral production of the Dominion. Gold, silver, nickel, copper, zinc, magnesium, dolomite, gypsum, salt and other minerals are mined commercially. Petroleum and natural gas are also produced on an important scale in the Ontario Peninsula (see Chapter XII).

The geographic position of Ontario on the Great Lakes waterways system permits coal to be economically transported from Pennsylvania and iron ore from Minnesota to provide the basis of a large iron and steel industry. A rich iron-ore development in the Steep Rock district west of Port Arthur has recently come into production. An abundance of natural resources has made Ontario the foremost industrial province of Canada (see Chapter XIV).

Possessed of excellent soil and a wide variety of climate, general farming is carried on extensively. In the Niagara Belt, fruit farming has been scientifically developed and is a highly specialized industry throughout the Ontario Peninsula.

Vast forest resources in proximity to hydro power (see Chapter IX) are the basis of large wood-using industries and the forests of the north are a rich fur preserve.

Manitoba.—Manitoba, covering 246,512 square miles, is roughly the size of France and is the most central of the provinces. Together with the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta it constitutes the famous Prairie Belt or Interior Plain section of the Dominion—world renowned for the quality of its wheat.