rise known as the Manitoba escarpment. Its surface gradually rises from an elevation of from 1,000 to 2,000 feet at the escarpment to from 4,000 to 5,000 feet at the border of the mountains on the west.

The third zone consists of the plateaux of Wood Mountain and the Cypress Hills which rise up to elevations of 1,000 feet above the level of the surrounding region. They are composed of flat-lying beds of Tertiary age.

In Pleistocene time glacial drift was widely scattered over the region. On the retreat of the ice deposits, clay accumulated in lakes which stood in front of the waning ice sheet. Much of southern Manitoba formed the bed of glacial Lake Agassiz.

The Interior Plains Region is the great wheat-producing area of Canada. Coal mining is an important industry. Bituminous coal and lignites are produced in large quantities in Alberta and in small amounts in Saskatchewan from Cretaceous and Eocene beds. Natural gas is produced in large quantities from various horizons of the Cretaceous in Alberta. Petroleum has been found in the Devonian beds of the lower Mackenzie Valley north of Norman, in Cretaceous strata at a number of localities in Alberta, and in Palæozoic rocks in Turner Valley. Along the Athabaska River the basal member of the Lower Cretaceous, known as the McMurray or the Tar sands, is heavily impregnated with bitumen. Gypsum is obtained from the Palæozoic rocks of Manitoba and also occurs in northern Alberta. Deposits of lead and zinc occur in Devonian limestones at certain places south of Great Slave Lake.

The Cordilleran Region.—The Cordilleran Region comprises the mountainous country bordering the Pacific Ocean. The part of it that lies in Canada has an average width of 400 miles, a length in a northwest direction of 1,500 miles, and an area of 600,000 square miles. It is made up of three principal zones. On the east is the Rocky Mountain Range; along the coast is a broad belt of mountains known as the Coast Range, while between these two lies a third or intermediate belt made up of plateaux and mountain ranges. The Rocky Mountains have a maximum width of 100 miles and have many peaks with elevations of from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. The Coast Range, varying in width from 50 to 100 miles, rises abruptly from the coast to peaks which along the axis of the range reach elevations of from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. The interior plateau and mountain belt is represented in the north by the Yukon plateau, a gently rolling upland broken into a series of flat-topped ridges by valleys several thousand feet deep. In the southern part of British Columbia the interior region is a plateau rising 3,000 to 4,000 feet above sea-level and cut by valleys a thousand or so feet in depth. To the west this plateau either joins the Coast Range directly or else is separated from it by the Cascade Range and other mountains. To the east between the plateau and the Rocky Mountains are a series of ranges separated by northwest-trending valleys. The Selkirk Range with peaks over 11,000 feet is the most important of these.

The rocks of the Cordilleran Region range in age from Precambrian to Recent. The Rocky Mountain belt is composed of great thicknesses of Precambrian, Palæozoic, and Mesozoic sediments, in most places unaccompanied by plutonic or volcanic rocks. The Coast Range is essentially a complex batholith of granite of late Jurassic or early Cretaceous age cutting and enclosing sediments and volcanic rocks of earlier Mesozoic age. The Interior belt of plateaux and mountain ranges is underlain by Palæozoic, Mesozoic, and Tertiary sediments and volcanic rocks. The pre-Tertiary beds are cut by numerous bodies of plutonic rocks and in several districts strata of Precambrian age are exposed.