

Provincial Parks.—In addition to the National Parks already described, most of the provinces have established provincial parks. The purpose is the same—to maintain areas of great scenic or other interest for the benefit of present and future generations. The provincial parks are administered by the Provincial Governments concerned, and in most cases they have not yet reached the degree of development which marks the National Parks. Following are brief descriptions of the principal provincial parks, by provinces.

British Columbia.—With its spacious scenic areas, no province lends itself more to the creation of parks than does British Columbia. Far exceeding all other provinces in the matter of provincial park acreage, British Columbia has 3 classifications of parks: Class A, of high recreational value with 17; Class B, large parks allowing multiple land use and 4 in number; Class C, a community-type park with 27. These 48 parks have a combined area of 11,480 square miles. In addition there are five Special Act Parks with a total area of 5,415 square miles.

Mount Seymour Park near Vancouver and Manning Park on the Hope-Princeton highway are two of the most important Class A parks and provide both summer and winter recreational opportunities. Both Tweedsmuir and Wells Gray Park of Class B listing possess outstanding mountain, lake and river scenery and some of the finest fishing and big-game areas in the Province. Tweedsmuir Park with its area of 5,400 square miles is the largest wilderness park in North America. Garibaldi Park of 973 square miles and lying a short distance from Vancouver is the most outstanding of the Special Act Parks. This rugged alpine area of peaks, glaciers and snowfields is famous for its meadows of vivid wild flowers and strange geological features. Liard River Park on the Alaska Highway and Strathcona Park in the centre of Vancouver Island are other Special Act scenic areas rapidly coming into prominence. The smaller Class C parks are strategically located throughout the Province to provide many communities with opportunities for convenient outings.

Alberta.—Although Alberta has a larger area of National Parks than any other province, many small park areas have also been set apart by the Provincial Government. These include:—

Aspen Beach Park, 17 acres on the shore of Gull Lake, west of Lacombe, primarily for bathing, outing and picnic purposes; Saskatoon Island Park, 250 acres reserved mainly for picnic purposes, west of Grande Prairie; Gooseberry Lake Park, 320 acres on the shore of Gooseberry Lake north of Consort, has a sports ground and a number of cottages, and accommodation for transients is available in the town of Consort; Lundbreck Falls Park, 13½ acres, a pleasant little beauty spot on the Crowsnest Pass highway west of Macleod, popular with fishermen and motorists; Sylvan Lake Park, 8.6 acres on the shores of Sylvan Lake, 11 miles west of Red Deer, a popular bathing place; Hommy Park, 5¼ acres in the vicinity of Albright, established to serve residents of the district with picnic and outing facilities; Ghost River Park, 535½ acres on a beautiful artificial lake on the Ghost and Bow Rivers west of Calgary; Park Lake Park, 37.2 acres set aside to provide picnic facilities for the districts north and west of Lethbridge; Assineau Reserve, on the Assineau River south of Lesser Slave Lake, set aside to preserve a fine stand of large spruce; Dillberry Lake Reserve, 78.4 acres on the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary near Chauvin, to preserve the natural beauty of a picturesque lake; Writing-on-Stone Reserve, 796 acres on the Milk River east and north of Coutts, to preserve natural obelisks on which appear hieroglyphics which have never been