

of Crown lands carrying valuable stands of merchantable timber. Numerous rivers provide access to the extensive lumbering areas and to attractive hunting and fishing resources. The Province is watered to the west and south by the St. John River, which, in its course of 400 miles, runs through country famed for its distinctive beauty.

While the forest resources are of first importance economically, large areas of rich agricultural land are found in the numerous river valleys, especially that of the lower St. John, and in the broad plains near the coast. Natural gas and petroleum are obtained in limited quantities and coal mining on a moderate scale is carried on in the Minto Basin at the head of Grand Lake.

Quebec.—Quebec is the largest province of Canada and occupies the area of British North America east of Hudson Bay, with the exception of Newfoundland (including the Coast of Labrador) and the other Maritime Provinces. It has an area (see p. 2) of 594,860 square miles, equal to the combined areas of France, Germany and Spain, but a large part of the surface is made up of Precambrian rocks of the Canadian Shield, which renders it unsuitable for agriculture. The Gulf of St. Lawrence and the River St. Lawrence penetrate the entire width of Quebec and divide the Eastern Townships and the Gaspé Peninsula to the south from the larger area of the Province to the north. North of the St. Lawrence the land takes the form of a ridge parallel to the river and rises from sea-level to the Height of Land at an elevation of from 1,000 to 3,000 feet from which it descends gently to sea-level at Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait.

With the exception of the treeless zone, extending north of latitude 58° , most of the Province supports a valuable tree growth varying from the mixed forests in the southwest to the coniferous forests in the east and north. In addition to extensive timber limits, which form the basis of a great pulp and paper industry (see Chapter XII), Quebec is the foremost of the provinces in the development of hydro-electric power (see Chapter XVI) 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. Extensive developments of gold and copper have taken place in the western part of the Province and the mineralized area is being extended year by year. Quebec is in second place in mineral production among the provinces of Canada (see Chapter XV). 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 Canada) 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