

The wealth of forest resources supports the lumbering and pulp and paper industries and places British Columbia first among the provinces in the production of lumber and timber (see Chapter XII). The Province 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. 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. In regard to water-power resources, British Columbia ranks after Quebec and Ontario (see Chapter XVI).

Yukon and the Northwest Territories.—North of the Western Provinces the Territories extend over an area of 1,511,979 square miles. This is largely an undeveloped domain, and for administrative purposes is divided into Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories: the latter is subdivided into three Provisional Districts. This vast area is over twelve times the area of the British Isles and about one-half the area of the United States. Great rivers, like the Mackenzie and the Yukon, are found there, and large inland bodies of water, such as Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes. There are many indications of mineral wealth; a number of rich gold-bearing deposits are under development and many prospects are being investigated in the Yellowknife area. The radium mines of Great Bear Lake yield the only radium produced on the Continent.

The Alaska Highway, completed in 1943, links Yukon, through Edmonton, Alta., and cities of the Prairie Provinces with the United States. Airports and other facilities have been provided over wide sections of the Mackenzie Valley and Yukon, and travel and transport by air will, undoubtedly, have a great influence on the development of the Territories. Details regarding the resources and administration of these areas are given in Chapter XXIX.

PART II.—GEOLOGY

For the latest material published under this heading see the 1947 edition of the Year Book, pp. 19-29. Reference to earlier articles will be found at the front of this edition.

PART III.—GEOPHYSICS

Material on Gravity, Seismology and Terrestrial Magnetism will be found at pp. 18-27 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book.

PART IV.—FAUNA AND FLORA

See list at the front of this edition for special material, under this heading, published in previous editions of the Year Book.

PART V.—LANDS, PARKS AND GAME RESOURCES

Canada is a comparatively new country with resources that are, for the most part, in the early stages of development. The fur, fishery and forest resources have, it is true, been the basis of trade for two or three hundred years, but exploitation on the present commercial scale is of relatively recent growth. Nevertheless, much