

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 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 water-power resources\* (at ordinary minimum flow) British Columbia ranks after Quebec (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, and large inland bodies of water, such as Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes are found there. Indications of mineral wealth are many; a number of rich gold-bearing deposits are under development and many prospects are being investigated in the Yellowknife area. There are important radium mines on the shores of Great Bear Lake.

The Northwest Highway System (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\*

Geologically, Canada falls into the following major divisions: (1) the Canadian Shield; (2) the Appalachian Region; (3) the Interior Plains; and (4) the Cordilleran Region. Nearly everywhere these are sharply demarcated from one another, and each has its own characteristic topography as well as geology. A fifth division, about which much less is known, includes a part of the Arctic Archipelago.

The Canadian Shield is the solid base around which the other Regions are framed. It occupies an area of approximately 1,800,000 square miles, forming an immense 'V' with an arm on each side of Hudson Bay. Physiographically, it is a heavily glaciated region for the most part of low relief, hummocky topography, and highly disorganized drainage. Its surface elevation varies from sea-level to more than 5,000 feet in northern Labrador. It is the great lake region of the world, probably containing more lakes than all the rest of the world together. Its rocks include sedimentary, volcanic and intrusive varieties of widely different ages but all Precambrian. In late Precambrian time the Region was peneplaned, or reduced to low relief, and since then it has experienced relatively little deformation. Vertical movements have, however, repeatedly taken place, some undoubtedly accompanied by faulting, and Palæozoic and Mesozoic seas advanced over parts of it and later retreated from it. In Tertiary time erosion stripped off much of the covering

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