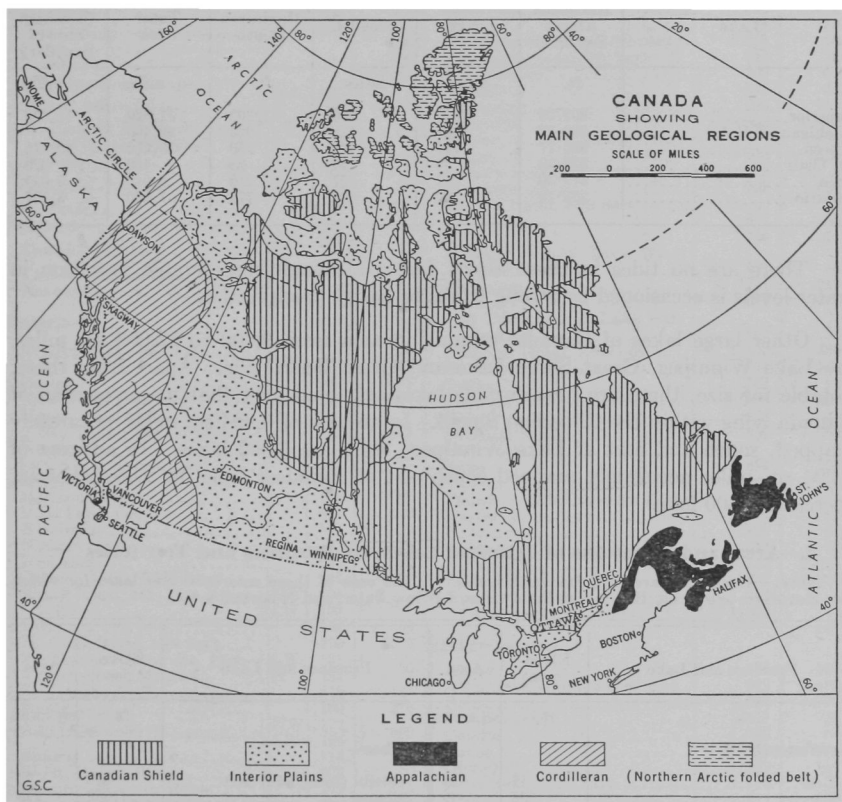


metamorphosed phases of much later rocks. In late Precambrian time argillites and related sediments accumulated on the site of the southern Rockies and in the region now occupied by the Purcell Mountains which are made up dominantly of quartzites of a thickness of over 20,000 feet. Sedimentation progressed during the Palæozoic era from Cambrian to Carboniferous time, and also during that of Mesozoic. Volcanism, the intrusion of granites, and mountain-building took place in the western part of the belt during the Jurassic period giving rise to the Selkirk and Coast Ranges. In late Cretaceous time and continuing over into the Tertiary, pressure from the west folded the rocks in the eastern part of the region giving rise to the Rocky Mountains.



The Cordilleran Region is a producer of gold (both lode and placer), silver, lead and zinc, and contains deposits also of mercury, tungsten and iron. Most of the known mineral occurrences are in the Western Cordilleran Belt and are related to late Mesozoic and early Tertiary granitic intrusions. Coal is widespread in the foothills of Alberta and oil and petroleum are also found in this area. Fluorite, gypsum, magnesite, hydromagnesite phosphate, saline deposits, and limestone form other valuable mineral occurrences.

For further details see Year Book 1947, pp. 19-29, and Year Book 1951, pp. 14-26.