

The surface of Ontario is characteristic of the Canadian Shield, except in the southern triangle lying between the lower lakes and the Ottawa River where the surface is low and level. The highest point in Ontario is 2,120 feet, on the promontory at the northeastern corner of Lake Superior. Northwest from the Height of Land, the slope descends very gently to Hudson Bay where a large marginal strip (the Hudson Bay Lowlands) is less than 500 feet above sea-level.

Mining is a very important industry in the wide-spread Precambrian area. Although the Province is lacking in native coal it is rich in other minerals and contributes almost one-half of the total mineral production of Canada. Gold, silver, nickel, copper, zinc, magnesium, dolomite, gypsum, salt and other minerals are mined extensively and petroleum and natural gas are also found in the Ontario Peninsula.

The Great Lakes waterways system permits economic international transportation of iron ore and coal for Ontario's basic iron and steel industries. This advantage, together with an abundance of natural resources has made Ontario the foremost manufacturing province of Canada. Vast forest resources in proximity to hydro-power form the basis of a large pulp and paper industry, while the forests of the north are a rich fur preserve.

The lands along the St. Lawrence possess excellent soil and general farming is carried on extensively. In the Niagara Belt, fruit farming has been scientifically developed into a highly specialized industry.

**Manitoba.**—Manitoba, covering 246,512 sq. miles, is the most central of the provinces. With the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, it constitutes the Prairie Belt or Interior Plains section of Canada—world-renowned for the quality of its wheat.

Manitoba is a land of wide diversity, combining 400 miles of sea-coast on a rocky belt along its northeastern boundary, bordering Hudson Bay, great areas of northern mixed forests, large lakes and rivers covering an area of 26,789 sq. miles, a belt of treeless prairie extending to the southeastern corner of the Province, and patches of open prairie overlain by very fertile soil of great depth. The surface of the Province as a whole is comparatively level, the average elevation being between 500 and 1,000 feet. The greatest height of 2,727 feet is Duck Mountain northwest of Lake Dauphin.

About three-fifths of the Province, east and north of Lake Winnipeg, is underlain with Precambrian rock in which the presence of rich deposits of base metals has been confirmed. The Province, although regarded basically as agricultural, possesses a wealth of mineral, forest and water-power resources which have brought about an expanding industrial development.

**Saskatchewan.**—Saskatchewan, 251,700 sq. miles in area, lies in the centre of the Prairie Belt between Manitoba and Alberta and extends, as do those provinces, from the International Boundary on the south to the 60th parallel of latitude on the north.