

The Canadian Shield extends over the northern third of the Province; this portion is abundantly watered by lakes and rivers and is generally of low relief. This area is also rich in timber resources and has given evidence of potential richness of mineral wealth. The southerly two-thirds of the Province is, generally, fertile prairie with soil of great depth. In normal years there is sufficient moisture for rapid growth and the abundant sunshine during the long summer season in this northern latitude quickly ripens the crops.

**Alberta.**—This Province covers 255,285 sq. miles and lies between Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains. The southern part of the Province is in the dry, treeless prairie belt, changing to the north into a zone of poplar interspersed with open prairie and giving way to mixed forests. The Canadian Shield extends only into the northeast corner of Alberta so that, excepting the fringe of mountainous country on its western border, practically the whole of the Province is overlain by arable soil of great depth. Alberta has two marked physical features: (1) the great valley of the Peace River where settlement has extended farther north than in any other part of Canada; and (2) the grazing lands in the foothills district which, rising sharply on the west, commence the ascent that continues to the very peaks of the Rocky Mountains. The southern half of the Province, rising towards the west, lies at a general elevation of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet but, in the northern half, the slope descends until elevations of well under 1,000 feet are reached at Lake Athabaska in the northeast corner.

Alberta has the most extensive coal and oil resources of any of the provinces and is the leading producer of petroleum and natural gas. These resources provide the basis of Alberta's industrial development. Lumbering is important in the more mountainous western parts and in the north, and ranching is carried on in the less populous sections. In some southern prairie areas the quantity and distribution of the natural precipitation make permanent agriculture precarious and a number of large irrigation projects have been developed, taking their water supply from rivers rising in the mountains that form the western boundary of the Province. The climate of Alberta is a particularly pleasant one, cooler in summer than the more eastern parts of the country and tempered in winter by the chinook winds.

**British Columbia.**—British Columbia, 366,255 sq. miles in area, is the third largest and the most westerly province of Canada. It includes many islands of the Pacific, notably Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, the area of the former being about 12,408 sq. miles.

The predominant feature of the Province is the parallel ranges of mountains that cover all except the northeast corner and produce a conformation characterized by high mountain ranges interspaced with valleys, many of which are extremely fertile with climatic conditions well adapted to mixed agriculture or fruit growing. Generally, the agricultural areas of these valleys are relatively small and broken, but there are two large areas in the Peace River Block and the Stuart Lake District that are rich and have great agricultural possibilities. The shore line of the Pacific is deeply indented with many inlets which are ideal for harbourage.