

The wealth of the 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. The Province excels in fishery products, chiefly on account 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, British Columbia ranks second in Canada.

Yukon and the Northwest Territories.—These vast northern territories extend over an area of 1,511,979 sq. miles, about 39 p.c. of the surface of Canada, from the 60th parallel of latitude to its northernmost limits.

The Territories are areas of contrast and extremes in physical characteristics, flora and fauna, and climate. The physical characteristics vary from the treeless plains of the far north, the rolling hills of the Canadian Shield in the east, the forested valley of the Mackenzie River, to some of the highest peaks of the Cordilleran Range in the west; from the small streams and lakes to the longest rivers in Canada, the Mackenzie and the Yukon, both of which are approximately 2,000 miles long, and Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes, each of which is over 11,000 sq. miles in area.

The mountains are rich in minerals and many valuable mining properties have been developed for gold, silver, oil and natural gas. The shores of Great Bear Lake have important deposits of high-grade pitchblende ores.

Early maturing varieties of spring wheat are grown on the agricultural land of the Territories lying almost entirely in the extension into the Mackenzie Valley of the central plains of the Prairie Provinces. In the northern regions the flora and fauna have their own peculiar patterns. Immense areas of lichens, which at first sight appear to be stretches of broken greyish rock, are the pastures upon which muskoxen feed. Caribou and muskoxen also feed on crowberries, ground-willow, sedges and mosses in the summer and on the living roots of these plants in winter.

The winters along the Mackenzie River are bitterly cold, averaging 16° to 25° below zero, but in Yukon they are surprisingly mild, being modified by Pacific waters, and vary from 2° below to 21° below zero.

Hunting of seals, walrus and whales and fishing and trapping form the principal basis of existence for the native Eskimos, providing food and hides for the manufacture of clothing, sleeping bags, etc. The introduction of reindeer by the Federal Government in the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories has provided an important industry to serve the people's needs.

PART II.—LAND RESOURCES AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1.—Land Resources

Table 1 classifies the land resources as agricultural, forested and unproductive. Duplication is unavoidable between the totals of present and potential agricultural land and the totals of forested land to the extent of agricultural lands under forest. The figures of agricultural lands are based on the 1951 Census; those on forested land are obtained from the Department of Resources and Development while those for total land area of Canada and the provinces are supplied by the Surveyor General.