

Alberta has the most extensive coal resources of any of the provinces and, following the discovery of the Leduc oil field, about 20 miles southwest of Edmonton, in 1947, it is rapidly becoming a major world source of crude petroleum. Huge reserves of natural gas have been disclosed, mostly as a result of oil-drilling operations, and prospects are bright for further large discoveries 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 dry sections of the south and west. 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, particularly in the south.

**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 12,408 sq. miles.

The predominant feature of the Province is the parallel ranges of mountains that cover all except the northeast corner resulting in a set of parallel linear valleys. Many of these 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. Two large areas in the Peace River Block and the Stuart Lake District have great agricultural possibilities. The shore-line of the Pacific is deeply indented with many inlets that are ideal for harbourage.

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 lead, zinc, silver, gold and, to a lesser extent, copper 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. The Province is one of the chief sources of tungsten ore in the free world and asbestos has been recently added to the list of minerals produced. Huge supplies of natural gas have been disclosed in the Peace River section of the Province. In water-power resources, British Columbia ranks second in Canada.

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

The Territories are areas of contrast and extremes in topographical characteristics, flora and fauna, and climate. Surface features vary from the treeless plains of the far north, the rolling hills of the Canadian Shield in the east, and the forested valley of the Mackenzie River, to some of Canada's highest mountain peaks in the west; from small streams and lakes to the longest rivers in Canada—the Mackenzie, which is over 2,600 miles in length, and the Yukon, which is approximately 2,000 miles long, and Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes, both of which are over 11,000 sq. miles in area.