

high of 103°F. In the short summer, lasting up to 90 days with long periods of sunshine, temperatures rise to an average of over 60°F. Its southern boundary is the northern limit of commercial agriculture; under present demand for land in Canada, these regions are too cold or too rough for any large development of agriculture. They are three in number and each differs from the others in several important respects.

*Yukon Region.*—This is a region of hills, plateaux and high mountains consisting of large portions of the drainage basins of the Yukon and Liard Rivers. Lying between the Mackenzie region and the Alaska border, it is an almost self-contained unit. There is very little traffic between the Yukon and Mackenzie regions, the main direction of road traffic being NW-SE, a route followed by the Alaska Highway which traverses the region. Whitehorse, the largest settlement, is the transportation centre and is connected by rail to the Pacific port of Skagway in Alaska. Gold was the lure that brought thousands of prospectors to the Yukon in the early part of the present century and, although production has decreased considerably since then, the area is still an important producer of placer gold. Rich deposits of lead-zinc-silver ore occur in the Mayo area, from which a substantial production of these metals is obtained. Coal is mined near Carmacks and asbestos at Cassiar.

*Mackenzie Region.*—This region is tributary to the northward flowing Mackenzie River, although it does not include the whole of the Mackenzie drainage basin. The region generally has an elevation of less than 1,000 feet above sea level. Most sections of it are very flat and covered with muskegs, swamps and lakes, sometimes interrupted by low limestone escarpments. It is dominated by the Mackenzie River which, unlike many of the other rivers of the country that are characteristically interrupted by rapids and falls, is one of the most magnificent navigable waterways in the world. It flows through an area that is sparsely populated and therefore lacks other easy means of transportation. The only break in navigation in the 1,700-mile stretch from the end of rail at Waterways in Alberta to the Beaufort Sea is 16 miles of rapids in the Slave River south of Fort Smith. Impressive to the end, the Mackenzie River reaches the sea through a maze of channels in the delta which spreads over several hundred square miles. Owing to the great latitudinal extent of the Mackenzie system, there is usually a difference of about three weeks between the time when the southern tributaries are ice-free in early May and the time when the delta channels break up. The fall freeze-up occurs in late October in the delta and in mid-November on the upper Mackenzie. The small settlements are scattered along the waterways. Access is possible to Waterways on the southern fringe by rail from Edmonton and a highway runs from the Peace River country northward to Yellowknife on the north shore of Great Slave Lake and beyond to MacKay Lake. A railway is under construction to Pine Point on the south shore of the lake. Farther northward, transportation is by water or by air. The permanent population is largely Indian. Mining replaced the fur trade as the most valuable industry of the Mackenzie Valley in 1938 and the mineral wealth comes mainly from three products—petroleum, uranium and gold—the latter two being mined in the edge of the Canadian Shield. The principal gold mines are near the town of Yellowknife, which is the largest settlement; Uranium City on Lake Athabasca is the uranium centre; and Norman Wells on the Mackenzie River is the source of oil. When the railway is completed, the development of large lead-zinc deposits at Pine Point is anticipated. The other settlements are little more than fur trading posts but the fur catch of the Mackenzie lowlands is still of importance. The chief fur bearer caught is the muskrat, especially in the Mackenzie Delta. In this area each of the two settlements of Inuvik and Aklavik has attained the size of what would be described as a village in southern Canada.

*Central Forest Region.*—The Central Forest Region is part of the northern forests or boreal forests of Canada, as are the Yukon and Mackenzie Regions, but it differs from them in that it is not dominated by a single river system and in that it is located mainly on the