

also an area of gentle relief and fertile soil of great depth. Farther west still, the third prairie level, which is more elevated and has more relief than the other levels, merges into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. This region is subject in winter to the very dry mass of polar continental air, with average January temperatures of around 0°F. The winter cold is moderated in the extreme west from time to time by the Chinook winds. In summer, average July temperatures are around 65°F. and the tropical air produces the chief rains of the area. But the average annual precipitation is only 15 to 20 inches, with less in the southwest, and is extremely variable with periodic droughts. In the northern part of the area, the precipitation effectiveness is highest and supports a 'parkland' vegetation of tall grasses interspersed at intervals with groves of trees. Elsewhere, however, the low precipitation and high evaporation discourage tree growth and the present economy is based on the substitution of grains for the natural grasses—a process aided by the generally level nature of the terrain and the ease with which large-scale agricultural machinery can be used. Normally there is sufficient moisture for rapid growth and the abundant sunshine during the long summer season in this northern latitude quickly ripens the crops. In the areas where precipitation is more precarious, a number of large irrigation projects have been developed which take their water supply from the rivers rising in the mountains to the west. Thus the core of the region is the central grain-growing area, with wheat emphasized in the drier, warmer parts and barley and oats elsewhere. This is flanked by cattle-raising on the west where the land is rougher, and dairying emphasis on the east where there is more precipitation. The settlement pattern is related almost exclusively to the railway network which was developed at the same time as modern migration into the area occurred. Other unifying forces are the mineral resources of coal, oil and gas which underlie the region. They are particularly abundant in the Alberta portion, especially in the Edmonton area, and their exploitation has led to the growth of some industrialization in the larger cities. The construction of oil and gas pipelines has aided in the distribution of these products westward and eastward.

*Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region.*—This region supports three-quarters of the population of Canada and is the financial, administrative and educational heart of the country; each of its two metropolitan areas of Toronto and Montreal has a population in excess of one million. Although a lowland, the region is not everywhere level but, in combination with good soils and a relatively mild climate, is level enough to make the region one of Canada's most important agricultural areas. Mixed farming is predominant but dairying is well developed to meet the needs of the urban population and the area produces the major part of Canada's output of such special crops as tobacco, fruit, sugar beets, soybeans, honey, nursery stock and maple products. Physically, the principal subdivision of the region occurs where an outlier of the Canadian Shield crosses the St. Lawrence River, but cultural and historical factors have dictated a political boundary between Ontario and Quebec, which is fundamentally based on the language spoken by the majority—English or French. More than three-quarters of Canada's manufacturing is done here and the economy of the region rests on these activities. Their growth is attributable to easy access to a variety of raw materials, an abundant supply of electric power, a skilled labour force and an intricate network of highways and railways closely linked with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence inland water system. The latter permits economic domestic and international movement of bulk commodities such as iron ore and coal for the basic iron and steel industries of Hamilton, Welland and Sault Ste. Marie. In the Ontario portion of the region the emphasis is on the production of automobiles, industrial and farm machinery, electrical goods, household equipment, rubber goods, synthetic textiles and industrial and consumer chemicals. The agricultural resources of the area are used in flour and feed mills, slaughtering and meat-packing plants, leather tanneries and fruit and vegetable canneries. In Quebec, many of the industries are located along or near the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, close to the great water power developments. The manufacture of pulp and paper, using the