

forests of the Shield, is the most valuable industry followed by the refining of non-ferrous metals and the production of a variety of petroleum products. Almost 90 p.c. of the tobacco products produced in Canada are manufactured in Quebec and the textile and clothing industries are also very important. The portion of the region south of the St. Lawrence River is part of the Appalachian Mountain system, and of the minerals produced there asbestos is by far the most important, amounting to some 70 p.c. of the world's output.

Gulf Region.—The most common element unifying the lands about the Gulf of St. Lawrence is the sea, with which the region is in intimate contact. It is therefore a region of islands and peninsulas, and hundreds of small coves and harbours indent the coasts, particularly of Nova Scotia and the Island of Newfoundland, which are admirably suited for fishing ports. Off-shore lie some 200,000 sq. miles of shallow sea, comprising one of the most prolific fishing grounds of the world, particularly for cod. In addition to this so-called deepsea fishery, there are several thousand square miles of in-shore fishing grounds within 15 miles of land, and even closer lie the lobster and oyster beds, particularly associated with Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The region is part of the Appalachian Mountain system and heights of over 3,000 feet are found in the Gaspé area of Quebec; also, a few points in the western part of the Island of Newfoundland and northern New Brunswick exceed 2,000 feet. However, the general topography is hilly rather than mountainous and this feature, combined with a cool marine climate, produces an environment generally less favourable to agriculture than other parts of Canada. Where exceptions to the hilly country occur, as in Prince Edward Island, the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and the St. John Valley of New Brunswick, agriculture is carried on and in some areas has become highly specialized. Lumbering is the most important inland activity and supports a number of pulp and paper mills and sawmills. The mineral resources, though relatively modest, are not insignificant to the economy of the region. The iron and steel industry of the Sydney area is based on local coal and iron ore from the Wabana deposits off the Island of Newfoundland. Other important minerals produced are lead, zinc, copper, gypsum and salt. Settlement is mainly along the coasts and river valleys where the various national origins of the people have tended to be perpetuated in the local cultures of the communities.

PART III.—LAND RESOURCES AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1.—Land Resources

Information currently available regarding Canada's vast land resources is shown in Table 1, where the land area is classified as occupied agricultural, forested and 'other' land, the latter including urban land, road allowances, grass and brush land and all waste land such as open muskeg, swamp and rock. Soil surveys now under way by the Department of Agriculture will make it possible in the future to estimate the amount of arable land Canada possesses and, as provincial inventories are completed, more information will be available regarding land now non-forested but not productive in an agricultural sense. The Department of Forestry estimates that about 48 p.c. of the land area of Canada is forested and, according to the Census of 1956, less than 8 p.c. is classed as occupied farm land. A great part of the 1,606,146 sq. miles of 'other' land is located in the Yukon and Northwest Territories which together have a land area of 1,458,784 sq. miles. The occupied farm land in these Territories is practically nil and the forested area is estimated at 275,800 sq. miles.