

**Quebec.**—Quebec is the largest province in Canada, its area of 594,860 sq. miles being approximately 15 p.c. of the total area of the country. It includes all that vast region lying north and west of the St. Lawrence River and Gulf as far as the shores of Hudson Strait and Bay and a line running due south of the tip of James Bay for a distance of 300 miles; it is bounded on the southwest by the Ottawa River and on the northeast by the Coast of Labrador. South of the St. Lawrence is a strip of land approximately 30 to 100 miles in width, known as the Eastern Townships and the Gaspé Peninsula, the former adjoining United States territory and the latter the Province of New Brunswick. From its southernmost point on the United States boundary to its northernmost point on Hudson Strait the distance is about 1,200 miles.

Because of its geographical position, large area and complex physiographic relations, Quebec has a wide variety of climates. In the lower St. Lawrence Valley the frost-free season is fairly long, extending from early May to late September. Summers are warm with hot humid spells and the average temperature in winter is 15° F. Moving northward and westward, winter temperatures become more extreme and the summers generally cooler while in the far north the highlands are bitterly cold in winter and practically summerless.

Physiographically, Quebec has three regions. The Canadian Shield occupies the greater part of the area north of the St. Lawrence. These plateau-like highlands, made up of a great mass of very ancient and mainly very hard rocks, present a rough, broken surface strewn with lakes and varying in height from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above sea level, with a few higher peaks. The height of land is in the north-centre of the province and over its broken southern rim tumble the many great rivers tributary to the St. Lawrence. The Appalachian Mountains extend through the area of Quebec south of the St. Lawrence, reaching their greatest width in the Eastern Townships and their greatest heights in the Gaspé Peninsula where the Shickshock Mountains have many summits over 3,500 feet; Mount Jacques Cartier, the highest mountain in Quebec, rises to 4,160 feet. The smallest region of the province is the St. Lawrence Lowlands, a triangular area bounded by the edge of the Canadian Shield on the northwest, the Great Champlain Fault bordering the Appalachian Highlands to the east and the Adirondack Mountains in the United States to the south. This is a low, flat region covered by deep clay deposited when the area was invaded by the Champlain Sea after the melting of Pleistocene ice. It is this fertile agricultural area that provided the basis of the economy of the province. It is here that

