



the extreme north from 60 to 90 days. Manitoba is the most favoured of the Prairie Provinces in amount of rainfall, which averages 22 inches a year in the inter-lake section and comes during the crop season when it can be best utilized.

Manitoba's economy has been built on its agricultural resources. Nearly 80 p.c. of its population lives in the arable area south of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba and within 100 miles of the southern boundary of the province; 36 p.c. are classed as rural dwellers. Wheat and other grain crops are of major importance but mixed farming operations with emphasis on livestock are more prevalent here than in the other Prairie Provinces. The lowland area also has some mineral deposits and yields moderate amounts of crude petroleum, salt, peat moss and gypsum, but it is the great northern area with its Precambrian rocks that contains most of the mineral wealth of the province. Noteworthy is the production from the large copper-zinc deposits at Flin Flon on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border, from the nickel-copper deposits at Lynn Lake 150 miles farther north, and from the new nickel development at Thompson in the central north, which came into production in mid-1961.

Manitoba has the greatest water power potential of the three Prairie Provinces. The heavily populated southern region is well supplied from hydro installations on the Winnipeg River and the northern resources are being developed gradually as demand for power increases in the mining areas. The northern areas also are well forested but much of the productive forest land is remote so that the forest industries, though important, are not highly developed. There are three moderate-sized pulp and paper mills in the province and several paper-converting establishments. In addition, Manitoba has valuable fisheries resources. The profusion of lakes and streams, particularly Lake Winnipeg, produces many varieties of commercial fish which are in demand on the United States market.

Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital and largest city, is the fourth largest in Canada, having, with its environs, a population of 475,989 in 1961. In the mid-1800's this city, situated at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, was the hub of traffic which converged on it from the east and fanned out westward. Its industries developed around its agricultural resources and its importance as a railway and distribution centre and today,