

although it has a wide diversity of manufacturing products, the food processing industries remain in first place and railway rolling-stock and other metal-using establishments rank high among its industries. Outside the metropolitan area of Winnipeg the province has only two cities, with populations of 12,000 and 28,000, both of which are in the southern area. In the north, Churchill, at the end of rail on Hudson Bay, is a deepsea port from which some wheat is shipped across the Atlantic; Fort Churchill, close by, is perhaps most noted as a military station and a base for Arctic research and has a larger but transient population.

**Saskatchewan.**—Saskatchewan has an area of 251,700 sq. miles, approximately the same as that of Manitoba. The demarcation line between the lowlands to the south and the Canadian Shield, which crosses into Saskatchewan about the 55th parallel, continues northwest across the province although it becomes less sharply defined. Thus the southern two thirds is prairie lowland. The second step of the prairie formation stretches westward from the Manitoba Escarpment at an average altitude of 2,000 feet, its surface, covered with deep fertile soil, being exceptionally flat in some areas but elsewhere hummocky with innumerable sloughs. Another great scarp occurs about 200 miles to the west, a continuation of the Missouri Coteau which is well-marked south of the border, and west of this extends the highest of the prairie steps with an altitude of from 3,000 to 4,300 feet; in the south the Cypress Hills rise above this level. Cutting across the centre of the lowland area are the great arms of the Saskatchewan River which flow from the Rocky Mountains to Lake Winnipeg.

This prairie lowland is the great grain-producing region of Canada. Throughout most of it the growing season ranges from 80 to 100 days and the average amount of sunshine is particularly high. On the other hand, precipitation amounts to less than 20 inches a year and the area is subject to violent storms, sometimes constituting hazards to the farmer. Saskatchewan nevertheless produces about two thirds of the wheat grown in the country as well as very substantial quantities of oats and other grains. Mixed farming, with emphasis on livestock, is more prevalent in the more northerly settled areas.

Approximately half the net value of production of the province is contributed by agriculture and upon agriculture are based the main manufacturing industries. However, the most important industry in point of value is petroleum refining. The southern plains of this province produce about a quarter of Canada's crude petroleum, moderate amounts of natural gas and large quantities of coal, salt and sodium sulphate, but the greatest mineral wealth in this area will come from what is believed to be the world's largest high-grade deposit of potash which occurs at depths of from 2,800 to 3,500 feet under a large part of southern Saskatchewan. The first shipments from this deposit, which was under development for several years, were made in 1959; shipments then ceased because of production problems but resumed on a continuing basis in 1962. Metal production includes substantial quantities of copper and zinc from the Flin Flon mines straddling the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary in the north, which also yield moderate amounts of gold, silver, cadmium, selenium and tellurium. But in recent years the most important of the province's metals in value is the uranium taken from the large vein-type deposits on the north shore of Lake Athabasca, close to the Northwest Territories boundary.

The forests of Saskatchewan are mainly in the northern half of the province and, while they cover an area of 118,000 sq. miles, only 41,000 sq. miles are considered productive. Lumber output therefore is light and one mill contributes to Canada's production of pulp and paper. Existing hydro-electric plants are also located in the northern areas and their output is used almost exclusively for mining purposes. The major part of the province's power requirements is supplied by thermal-electric plants fuelled with coal, oil and natural gas.

Saskatchewan had a population of 925,181 in 1961 of whom 57 p.c. were rural dwellers. The urban centres, of which Regina and Saskatoon are the largest, are well dispersed over the prairie lands and serve mainly as distributing centres for their surrounding areas. Regina, the capital, in 1961 had a population of 112,141 and Saskatoon 95,526.