

## Section 2.—Geology

North America comprises six main natural regions: the Canadian Shield, a vast area of ancient rocks that is mainly in Canada; the Interior Plains and Lowlands, the largest of which extends throughout the mid-Continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean; the Appalachian Region, mainly in the United States but also forming an important part of Eastern Canada; the Cordilleran Region, extending along the entire west coast of the Continent; the Atlantic Coastal Plain along the eastern seaboard of the United States; and the Inuitian Region, a mountainous belt in the Arctic Archipelago. Canada includes parts of four of these regions and all of the Inuitian Region, but none of the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

These natural regions are physiographic as well as geological because the ages, kinds and structures of the underlying rocks determine the natures of the land surfaces and the type and extent of the resources upon which man relies for his livelihood and utilizes for his economic advancement. This aspect is discussed in Subsection 1 of Section 1 dealing with the main physical and economic features of the provinces and territories. Brief sketches of the individual geological regions together with an outline of geological processes are given in the 1961 Year Book at pp. 5-14; this article is summarized in the 1962 edition at pp. 1-5. Further information is supplied by *Geology and Economic Minerals of Canada* (\$2, including Map 1045A) and *Prospecting in Canada*; the latter also contains chapters on the principles of geology and on minerals and rocks. The *Geological Map of Canada* (1045A, 50 cents) and *Canada, Principal Mining Areas* (900A) are also recommended. Map 900A is revised annually; one copy is sent free to residents of Canada and additional copies are 25 cents each. These publications may be ordered from the Director, Geological Survey of Canada,\* together with lists of reports and maps on specific topics and areas, for each province. Other publications are available from provincial mines departments.

## PART II.—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 1961, less than 8 p.c. is classed as occupied farm land. A great part of the 1,603,821 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.

\* A special article covering the history and current activities of the Geological Survey of Canada appears in the 1960 Year Book, pp. 13-19, and is available from the Director in reprint form. A brief outline of the functions of the Survey is given in the Mines and Minerals Chapter of this volume (see Index).