

Map 1.1

## Capital cities of Canada



forested but much of the productive area is so remote that forest industries are not highly developed.

Winnipeg, the capital, is the industrial centre of Manitoba.

**Saskatchewan** is two-thirds prairie lowland, the great grain-producing region of Canada. The demarcation line between the lowlands and the Canadian Shield, crossing into Saskatchewan near the 55th parallel, continues northwest across the province although it becomes less sharply defined. The second step of the prairie formation, covered with deep fertile soil, is exceptionally flat in some areas but elsewhere hummocky with innumerable sloughs. The next scarp is the Missouri Coteau from which extends the highest of the prairie steps. The Cypress Hills rise above this level. Cutting across the lowland are the branches of the Saskatchewan River which flow to Lake Winnipeg.

Saskatchewan's climate is continental with long cold winters and warm summers. The frost-free period in the fertile lowland areas ranges from 80 to 100 days. Precipitation is low with an average of less than 50 cm a year.

The urban centres — Regina, the capital, and Saskatoon — serve mainly as distributing centres for their surrounding areas.

**Alberta** lies mainly in the interior plains region. The southern part is dry, treeless prairie changing toward the north into a zone of poplar interspersed with open prairie and giving way to mixed forests.

The boundary follows the 49th parallel, strikes northwest following the ridge of the Rocky Mountains to a point close to the 55th parallel and then turns directly north to the 60th parallel. From the Saskatchewan border in the southern area the plain rises gradually as it merges into the Rocky Mountain Foothills. This foothills area is part of the Western Cordilleran region. The Alberta Rockies have numerous high peaks close to or on the British Columbia boundary.

The South is subject in winter to cold dry air masses of continental polar air, occasionally moderated by Chinook winds. Summers are warm with abundant sunshine but rainfall is meagre and highly variable, particularly in the southwest, with periodic droughts. In some areas irrigation projects have been developed, taking water from the rivers rising in the mountains to the West.

The metropolitan areas of Edmonton, the capital, and Calgary are in the oil and gas producing areas.

**British Columbia** consists almost completely of the Cordilleran region made up of parallel