

Gulf are important and inland waters abound in game fish. The climate and soil of the upper St. Lawrence Valley and of the Eastern Townships are well suited to general farming operations, including dairying and the production of vegetables and maple products.

Ontario.—Lying between Quebec on the east and Manitoba on the west, Ontario has an area of 412,582 sq. miles and is usually regarded as an inland province but its southern boundary has a fresh-water shore line of 2,362 miles on the Great Lakes while its northern limits have a salt-water shore line of 680 miles on Hudson and James Bays.

The surface of Ontario is characteristic of the Canadian Shield, except in the southern triangle lying between the lower lakes and the Ottawa River where the surface is undulating to rolling, being higher to the west of the Niagara Escarpment, northwest of which the highest elevations are obtained. The highest point in Ontario is 2,120 feet, on the promontory at the northeastern corner of Lake Superior. Northwest from the Height of Land, the slope descends very gently to Hudson Bay where a large marginal strip (the Hudson Bay Lowlands) is less than 500 feet above sea-level.

Ontario has long been Canada's leading producer of minerals and accounts for practically all the Canadian production of nickel and for about 95 p.c. of the world output of this metal. It is a leading world source of copper and the platinum metals and, mainly as a result of developments in the Steep Rock and Michipicoten areas, it is rapidly gaining prominence as a source of iron ore. Ontario also produces several of the industrial minerals, a fairly recent addition to the list being asbestos from the Matheson area. The Province produces substantial quantities of natural gas and relatively small amounts of crude petroleum.

The Great Lakes waterways system permits economic international transportation of iron ore and coal for Ontario's basic iron and steel industries. This advantage, together with an abundance of natural resources, has made Ontario the foremost manufacturing province of Canada. Vast forest resources in proximity to hydro-electric power form the basis of a large pulp and paper industry, while the forests of the north are a rich fur preserve.

The lands along the St. Lawrence and the lower lakes possess excellent soil and constitute a highly productive farming district catering to the needs of a large urban population. In the Niagara Peninsula fruit farming has been scientifically developed into a highly specialized industry.

Manitoba.—Manitoba, covering 246,512 sq. miles, is the most central of the provinces. With the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, it constitutes the Interior or Prairie Plains section of Canada—world-renowned for the quality of its wheat.

Manitoba is a land of wide diversity, combining 400 miles of sea-coast along its northeastern boundary bordering Hudson Bay, great areas of mixed forests, large lakes and rivers covering an area of 26,789 sq. miles, a belt of treeless prairie extending to the southeastern corner of the Province, and patches of open prairie underlain by very fertile soil of great depth. The average elevation of the Province is between 500 and 1,000 feet. The greatest height of 2,727 feet is Duck Mountain, northwest of Lake Dauphin.