

Most of that part of Manitoba lying north and east of Lake Winnipeg is underlain by rocks of the Canadian Shield. Within this area are numerous deposits of base metals and gold and from the mines in this area Manitoba obtains all its metal output. The largest operation is at Flin Flon where copper-zinc deposits are located. These deposits straddle the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary and, for a number of years, most of the output has come from the Saskatchewan portion. Large copper-nickel deposits are being developed at Lynn Lake.

Most of the southern portion of the Province forms part of the great plains region and from this area Manitoba obtains its output of several non-metallic minerals. Crude petroleum was discovered in the Virden district a few years ago and a number of wells are now in production in this general area, the present rate of output being in excess of 1,000 bbl. a day.

Saskatchewan.—Saskatchewan, 251,700 sq. miles in area, lies in the centre of the Prairie Plains between Manitoba and Alberta and extends, as do those Provinces, from the International Boundary on the south to the 60th parallel of latitude on the north. The Canadian Shield extends over the northern third of the Province. This portion is abundantly watered by lakes and rivers and is generally of low relief. It is rich in timber resources and from it comes Saskatchewan's metal output which is practically all obtained from the large copper-zinc deposits straddling the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary. The discovery of deposits of uranium ore in the Beaverlodge area north of Lake Athabasca has brought Saskatchewan prominently to the forefront as a potential world source of this ore; production in this area commenced in April 1953.

The southern two-thirds of the Province forms part of the great plains region and is generally fertile, with soil of great depth. Normally, there is sufficient moisture for rapid growth and the abundant sunshine during the long summer season in this northern latitude quickly ripens the crops. This portion of Saskatchewan is rich in non-metallic minerals, including the fuels, and is the source of all of Canada's output of sodium sulphate. During the past few years extensive exploration for crude petroleum and natural gas has been conducted here with increasingly successful results.

Alberta.—This Province covers 255,285 sq. miles and lies between Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The southern part of the Province is dry, treeless prairie, changing to the north into a zone of poplar interspersed with open prairie, and giving way to mixed forests. The Canadian Shield extends only into the northeast corner of Alberta so that, excepting the fringe of mountainous country on its western border, practically the whole of the Province is underlain by arable soil of great depth. Alberta has three marked physical features—the plains, the foothills, and the portion of the Rocky Mountains within its boundaries. Overlying these is the marked difference in vegetation of the arid southwest and the more humid parklands of the remainder of the Province which merges with mixed and coniferous forest. Permanent agricultural settlement reaches its farthest northern point in Canada in the Peace River Valley of Alberta. The southern half of the Province, rising towards the west, lies at a general elevation of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet but, in the northern half, the slope descends until elevations of well under 1,000 feet are reached at Lake Athabasca in the northwest corner.