

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 hydroelectric 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. Its southwestern portion together with the southern portions of Saskatchewan and Alberta constitutes the Prairie section of the Western Interior Lowlands Region—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 with 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—2,600 feet—is Duck Mountain, northwest of Lake Dauphin.

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.

From the southern portion of the Province 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.

Saskatchewan.—Saskatchewan, 251,700 sq. miles in area, lies 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 1953.

The southern two-thirds of the Province forms part of the Western Interior Lowlands 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 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.