

region. The Western belt includes the Pacific system, made up mainly of the Coast and Cascade mountains, and the Insular system, comprised of a line of islands running parallel to the coast of which the main one is Vancouver. This belt is also a mountainous one, though not so pronounced as the Eastern belt. The great Central belt, however, containing some more or less independently defined systems of low mountains and plateaus, constitutes on the whole a vast area of land suitable for agricultural exploitation and settlement.

The northeast part of the province, lying east of the Rocky Mountain system, falls within the Great Plains division of Canada. These plains include the prairie of Western Canada and constitute the agricultural areas of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The part of British Columbia included in them lies partly in the famous Peace River district and partly in the drainage basin of the Liard river. The Peace river portion of British Columbia and the middle part of the Central belt contain the bulk of the agricultural lands of the province.

British Columbia extends from the straits of Juan de Fuca and the 49th parallel of north latitude, which constitute the international boundary between Canada and the United States in these parts, northerly through 11 degrees of latitude to the 60th parallel, beyond which lies the Yukon territory. To the east lies the province of Alberta. The summit of the Rocky Mountain range is the interprovincial boundary as far north as its intersection with the 120th degree of west longitude, which is then the boundary for the remaining distance. Westerly the province extends to the Pacific ocean except in the northwest corner where the "pan-handle" of Alaska intervenes. Vancouver island and the Queen Charlotte group of islands together with many smaller ones, also form part of the province.

The northeast part of the province, lying in the Great Plains division, forms part of the Great Mackenzie basin. Two principal rivers flow through this section, the Peace and Liard. The Peace reaches the Mackenzie by way of the Slave river and the Great Slave lake and the Liard joins it directly.

The southeast part of the province is drained by the Columbia and its numerous tributaries southerly over the international boundary line and thence to the Pacific.

The southern and central interior is drained by the great Fraser and its principal tributaries the Nechako and Thompson rivers to tide-water at Vancouver. Along the western coast the principal rivers are the Skeena, reaching the sea at Prince Rupert, the Nass, flowing into Portland inlet, and the Stikine which cuts through the Alaskan pan-handle to reach the sea near Wrangel.

Central British Columbia is an indefinite term. It is usually used to designate the great interior plateau lands comprising the famous Bulkley valley, Nechako valley, Upper Fraser river drainage basin and the Cariboo and Chilcotin districts. It is sometimes applied to the country served by the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. The scope of this report is intended to apply to all these districts. For such purposes arbitrary boundaries have been adopted though not adhered to strictly. In general terms, therefore, it may be here defined as that part of the mainland lying between the 52nd and 57th parallels of latitude, and comprising a total area of approximately 145,000 square miles.

This portion of British Columbia is most interesting and unique in its development. To the business man of the day it is a "New British Columbia"—made