



Lord Strathcona drives the last spike at Craigellachie, B.C., in 1885, completing the C.P.R.

with the potentialities of this industry.

The resources of the Precambrian Shield, which covers three-fifths of Manitoba, one-third of Saskatchewan, and the north-east corner of Alberta, are still largely undeveloped in the Prairie Provinces. Gold, copper, zinc, silver and cadmium deposits are worked in northern Manitoba, but mining is still on a relatively small scale compared with operations in northern Ontario and Quebec.

Manufacturing, like mining, occupies a relatively minor but growing position in the prairie economy. It is chiefly concerned with the processing of foods, oil refining and light manufacturing. The prairies remain basically an agricultural region.

British Columbia

Between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean lies the province of British Columbia. It has an area of 366,255 square miles (948,600 square kilometers) and this region, generally mild in climate, is rich in natural resources which provide the people of British Columbia with the highest per capita income of any province in Canada.

The magnificent coastal stands of timber—Douglas fir, western hemlock, white pine and red cedar—provide the province with its most important single industry. Close to 60 per cent of the provincial income is derived from timber and its products. Forestry operations are mechanized and efficient to a degree unexcelled anywhere.

Fishing ranks closely behind forestry in importance. About one third of Canada's total fish production is from British Columbia. Salmon, abounding in the estuaries, rivers and inlets of the coast, is the principal fish canned. Halibut is the most important deep-sea fish.

Agriculture in the generally rocky terrain of British Columbia is highly specialized. The emphasis is on truck and poultry farming in the Fraser Valley and fruit growing in the Okanagan Valley. In the north, near the Alberta border, the Peace River district has attained importance as a producer of wheat and oats. Cattle-ranching has been developed in the southern parts of the interior plateau.

Mining of metals and coal is the region's oldest industry. Copper, lead, zinc, and silver are the chief metals mined. The largest base-metal smelters in the Commonwealth are located in the city of Trail.

Manufacturing in British Columbia at the outbreak of war

The largest privately owned railroad yards in the world, Winnipeg.

