



Ontario.



Quebec.



Nova Scotia



New Brunswick.



Manitoba.



P. E. Island.



British Columbia



Saskatchewan.



Alberta.

### The Arms of the Provinces.

By J. VROOM.

The assignment of armorial ensigns to the provinces of the Dominion of Canada is a matter of sufficient importance to have called for the official sanction of the Sovereign; and since armorial bearings have now been granted by royal warrant to each separate province of the Dominion, "for the greater honour and distinction of the said Province," as it is expressed in the warrants, we may very well be expected to take the trouble of learning what these armorial bearings are and how to read them.

To look for symbolism in every coat of arms is to forget that originally the use of heraldic charges was merely to identify a mailed warrior to his followers. Nevertheless, such charges are often significant; and especially is this true of what are

called territorial arms. In the arms of the Canadian provinces, there is in most cases a significance which, though not essential, is quite obvious and very interesting.

In these coats of arms, of course, we find gold and silver, the two metals used in heraldry, respectively called *or* and *argent*. In addition to these, there are three colours, namely red, blue and green, respectively known in heraldic terms as *gules*, *azure* and *vert*. The other tinctures more or less used in heraldry do not happen to occur in the Canadian arms. *Gules*, red, is indicated in the accompanying drawings by vertical lines, the proper conventional marking for this tincture; *azure*, blue, by horizontal lines; *vert*, green, by diagonal lines in the direction which on a map we would say was from northwest to southeast. *Or*, gold, is marked with dots; to distinguish it from *argent*, silver,