

cause the temperature to rise as much as 80° in a single day, turning snow to vapour.

The province has little water-power, owing to the gentle slope of the land, but energy is available from important deposits of petroleum, natural gas and coal. Alberta produces about 75 per cent of Canada's oil and 82 per cent of its gas, and is the source of about 46 per cent of the country's native coal.

The industry next in importance is agriculture.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE TERRITORIES



About 30 per cent of the province consists of farm land that supports large crops of wheat and huge herds of livestock.

Forests cover more than 60 per cent of the province's land area.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Area: 366, 255 square miles

Population: 2,247,000

Capital: Victoria

Most of this province contains mountains and plateaux. The Rockies in the east (highest peak Mount Robson, 12,972 feet) and the Coast Mountains in the west (highest peak Mount Waddington, 13,260 feet) traverse the province from south to north. The highest peak in B.C. is Mount Fairweather (15,300 feet) in the St. Elias Mountains on the border of Alaska. In the south are a number of elongated and relatively narrow valleys, such as the Okanagan Valley, in which agriculture thrives.

The winds from the Pacific Ocean are warmed by the Japanese Current. Rainfall, varying regionally from 10 to 115 inches annually, is heavy on the coast in winter; but the interior, shielded by the Coast Range, is dry. Although extreme temperatures occur in the far north of the province, the mean temperature elsewhere ranges from 25°F. to 60°F.

Over 73 per cent of British Columbia is forested, and almost four-fifths of this area produces marketable timber. The province is Canada's largest producer of lumber and possesses a sizeable pulp-and-paper industry.

Though there is relatively little cultivable land, dairying and fruit farming are important.

Fish, particularly the several varieties of Pacific salmon, is a valuable resource; the province ranks first in Canada in value of its catch.

In mineral production British Columbia ranks third among the provinces. Its most important minerals are copper, oil, zinc, coal, molybdenum, natural gas and lead.