

SALT. In the form of brine springs occurs in Northern Alberta, near the Mackenzie River.

SILVER. See Galena.

TAR SANDS. In the valley of the Athabasca, above Athabasca Lake, is an immense outcrop of tar sands, estimated to have a minimum distribution of 1,000 square miles. In thickness they vary from 150 to 225 feet. Analysis of a specimen gave bitumen, 12.42; water (mechanically mixed), 5.85; siliceous sands, 81.73. Above Boiler Rapid the tar sands are overlaid by shales sufficient to prevent the oil from rising, and the existence of several natural gas springs afford indications of the existence of oil. See Ann. Report Geological Survey of Canada, 1890.

Miscellaneous

AREA. Alberta has 253,540 sq. miles, as compared with Great Britain and Ireland, 253,540; France, 121,391; Germany, 208,780; Austria-Hungary, 241,433; New England States, U.S.A., 165,745.

CLIMATE. There is one common flora requiring a high summer temperature from U. S. boundary to Lake Athabasca, i.e., the Northern Districts are in the same class for grain culture as the country near Winnipeg, Regina or Calgary. The chief factors of the Alberta climate are:

CHINOOK WINDS. Warm winds blowing from the mountains, though more common in the South, occur along the whole range of the Rockies. They have been known to cause a rise in temperature of 60 degrees in a few hours.

ISOTHERMAL LINES. On the east the isothermal lines turn northward from the west coast of Hudson's Bay. On the west they turn north from the Gulf of California, cross the Rockies at the s.w. corner of Alberta, meeting the eastward currents about the Hand Hills.

ALTITUDE. South of the U. S. boundary is a plateau 500,000 sq. miles at 6,000 ft. above sea level, falling at the boundary to 4,000 ft., and 700 miles farther north to 1,000 ft.

SUNSHINE. In the north, from June 1st to August 1st, there are but 2 hours of darkness. The sun works longer.

RAINFALL. The greatest rainfall is in May, June, July and part of August—the growing season. The latter part of August and September are dry.