



Mining and smelting plant at Trail, B.C.

British Columbia

West from the Rockies, and extending to the Pacific, lies the province of British Columbia. This region, mild in climate, is rich in natural resources which provide the people of British Columbia with the highest per capita income of all the provinces 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, forestry. 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. More than half 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. In the north, near the Alberta border, the Peace River district has attained renown and importance as a producer of wheat and oats.

West Coast herring fishers haul up their nets.



B.C. loggers use a power saw to fell giant trees.

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 British Commonwealth are located in the city of Trail.

Manufacturing in British Columbia at the outbreak of war was chiefly concerned with lumber, pulp and paper, and fish canning. The war brought a considerable development of shipbuilding and aircraft industries. British Columbia continues to grow: 90,000 Canadians moved to the province during the period 1941-44.

Canada's North

The production of uranium, vital to atomic power, focusses increasing attention upon Canada's huge northern territories, which are still largely undeveloped. Extensive wartime expansion of air transport facilities into the north and the building of the Alaska highway promise to facilitate further exploitation of the area's resources.

Radium, uranium, silver, gold and petroleum products are now being produced in commercial quantities. Extensive known deposits of lead, zinc, copper, tungsten, tar sands and nickel are not yet fully explored.

The north is still not a clearly defined economic area and its place in the Canadian economy remains a promising question mark.

Eldorado Mines near the Arctic Circle produce uranium.

