



Built upon this solid foundation of agriculture, forestry and mining, and drawing strength from its geographic position, industrial Ontario produces more than half of all Canadian manufactures. A wide range of products are turned out by its factories, notably iron and steel, automobiles, farm machinery, processed foods and electrical supplies. Toronto, like Montreal, is a centre of finance, distribution and transportation for eastern Canada.

*The Prairie Region*

The export from Canada of a million bushels of wheat per day from 1944 to 1946 has been made possible by the rich alluvial soil of the prairie provinces, improved types of wheat, and the efficiency of mechanized agriculture.

It was the rich and free wheat-lands of the prairies that brought the wave of western settlement at the beginning of the century and the parallel growth of the older communities in the East. Between 1896 and 1913, a million people had come; by 1931 the population of the three prairie provinces was five and one-half times what it had been at the turn of the century. And, as an example of the effects of western settlement upon industrial development in the east, the number of eastern firms producing iron and steel products (largely rails and farm machinery) had increased from 29 in 1890 to 89 by 1910.

The double impact of drought and shrinking world trade in the '30's checked this development abruptly. But western resourcefulness presently asserted itself. Diversification in prairie agriculture was speeded up. Greatly increased production of coarse grains accompanied the shift to extensive mixed farming. The raising of hogs and cattle became a major prairie activity. By 1942, 60 per cent of the hogs raised in Canada came from the prairies.

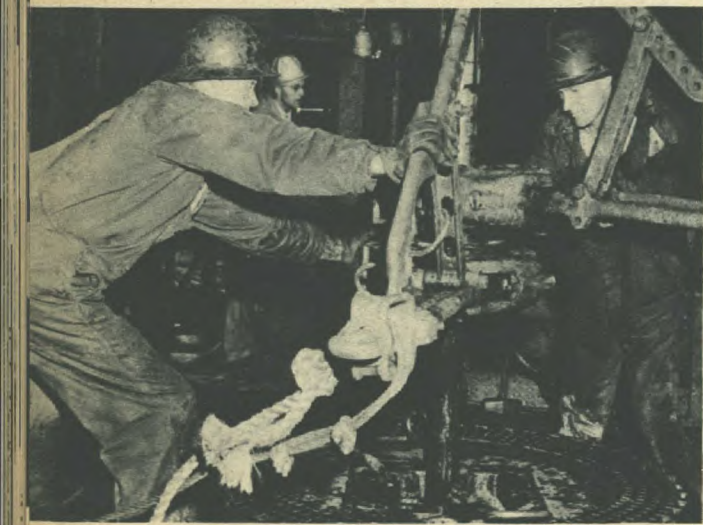
There was a trend away from absolute dependence upon wheat. In 1927 wheat had provided 70 per cent of western farm income, by 1943 70 per cent of farm income came from other products. At the same time improved cultivation and a high degree of mechanization were improving wheat yields. In

*Mixed farming is common in Eastern Canada.*

*Electrical milking in Ontario.*

*Deep test for oil in Alberta.*

*Machines load graded coal on railway cars.*



*Alberta cattle await shipment to packing plant.*

1942 the second largest crop in Canadian history, 556,700,000 bushels, was harvested from 21,600,000 acres, a yield of 25.8 bushels per acre.

Of the prairie mineral resources, coal and petroleum are the most important at present. Both occur mainly in southern Alberta. The coal is soft, and is mined in quantities about equal to the production of Nova Scotia but is mostly inferior to the Maritimes coal in quality. Western coal, distant from available sources of iron, is used chiefly to meet domestic and railway needs throughout the prairies. There is a major oil field in the Turner Valley near Calgary. Its crude oil and natural gas are consumed largely in western Canada. Oil exploration is being pushed in both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

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 are being mined in northern Manitoba, but mining is still in its infancy as compared with the scale of 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 prairie remains basically an agricultural region.

