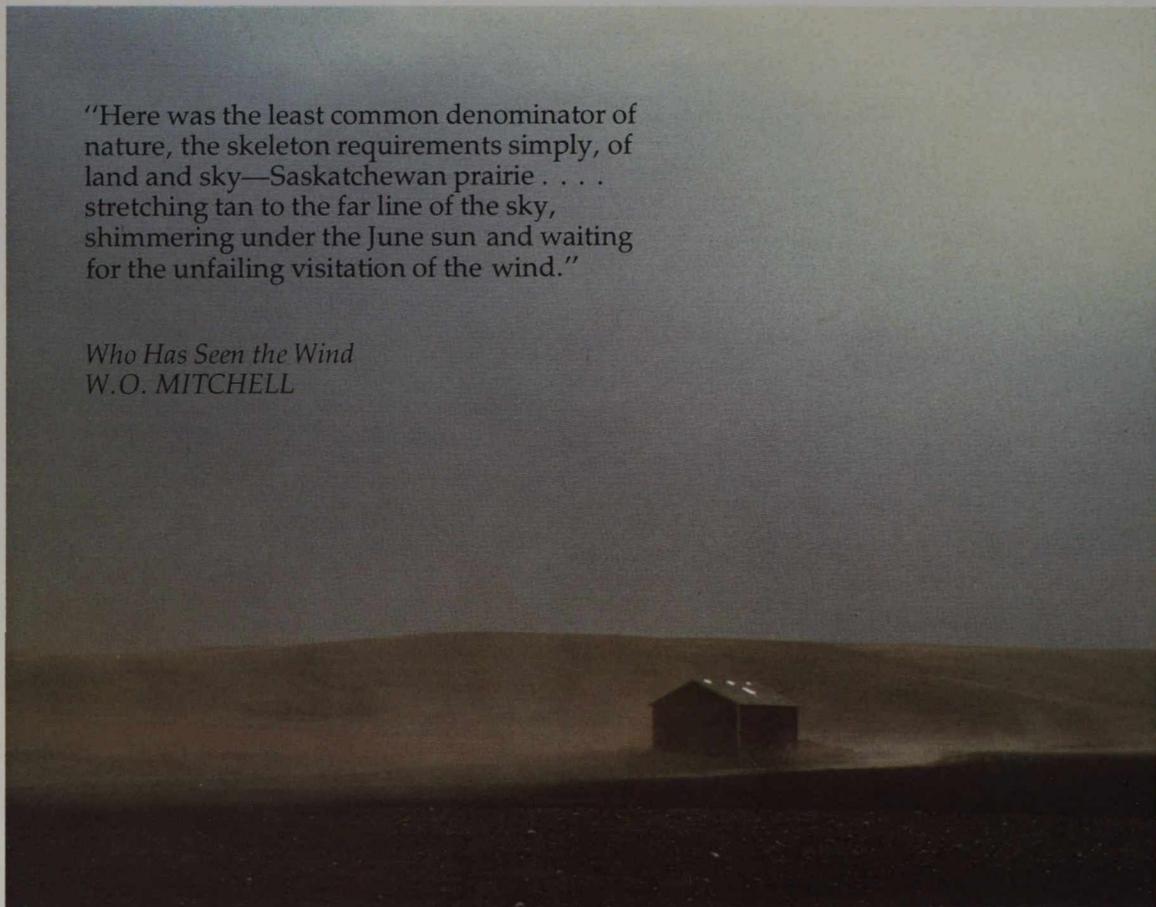

Saskatchewan

"Here was the least common denominator of nature, the skeleton requirements simply, of land and sky—Saskatchewan prairie . . . stretching tan to the far line of the sky, shimmering under the June sun and waiting for the unfailing visitation of the wind."

Who Has Seen the Wind
W.O. MITCHELL



Cinderella Has New Shoes

Saskatchewan, once broke and ravaged by the wind, is still windy but it's no longer ravaged.

It is rich, with an abundance of high priced products—wheat, potash, uranium and oil. Some, like wheat, are renewable and some, like potash, practically inexhaustible.

Bankers and economists say that during the 1980s it will have the greatest sustained growth of all Canadian provinces, including its rich neighbour Alberta.

It will remain rural. Some 970,000 people now share an area larger than Great Britain and Germany combined. It has no heavy industry requiring tens of thousands of workers and it isn't trying to develop any. Last year it stopped losing population, putting an end to the familiar joke:

"Will the last person to leave please put out the lights," and started gaining at a leisurely rate, but no one expects the present modest flow to turn into a rush.

Its farming and mining are mechanized—two or three workers can handle a 1,000 acre farm, and relatively few skilled technicians gather the potash and uranium with expensive and complex machines. The new industries that are taking shape are small-scaled and keyed to the basic farming and mining economy.

Most of Saskatchewan's wealth comes right out of the ground, and much of it is owned, share-and-share-alike, by all of its citizens. The revenues go into a Heritage Fund intended to benefit present and future generations. The Fund, which totaled \$429 million in 1978, is now over \$1 billion and is expected to reach \$1.25 billion by 1982. Cinderella has inherited the earth.

Cover Photo: Dr. Tom Pepper, Director of the Saskatchewan Research Council, in a field outside Saskatoon.