

capacity of wheat and the extremely high quality of wheat produced.

Cattle-raising has always been important in the development of the West and today it still accounts for 20 per cent of farm income. In addition, the meat-packing industry makes a substantial contribution to employment and payrolls in the province. Other livestock produced are chicken, turkey, swine and sheep.

Greater mechanization has altered the Saskatchewan agriculture during the past two decades, during which average farm size has increased. With the assistance of provincial agricultural programs, the drop in the number of farms is levelling off. The rural population is becoming stabilized and farmers are encouraged to participate more fully in food processing. The provincial agricultural department is encouraging diversification in farming.

Forestry

The products of Saskatchewan's vast forests are of great economic significance, both as lumber and pulpwood. Although the total forested area of northern Saskatchewan covers approximately 305,502 km² (118,000 square miles) the area of commercial forest is only about 106,149 km² (41,000 square miles).

The proportion of hardwood to softwood is about equal. Saskat-

chewan's first pulp mill was completed in 1968. Located at Prince Albert, it processes some three-quarters of a million cords of pulpwood annually. Current production is 816.3 tonnes (900 tons) a day of high-grade bleached draft pulp. Increasing demand for pressed wood has brought about a rapid growth in this industry. A particle-board plant processes large quantities of chipped aspen (a variety of poplar). Plywood production has also increased.

Tourism and recreation

Saskatchewan is recognized as a hunter's paradise. It is one of the largest breeding grounds for ducks and geese and is considered one of North America's finest game bird areas. A source of well over \$1 million in income for northern residents is the trapping of beaver, mink, bear and muskrat. Commercial fishing in northern Saskatchewan is worth over \$3 million annually. Taken from some of Canada's best inland fishing water, the average catch is approximately 7.06 million kg (15.6 million pounds) a year. Particularly important are lake trout and whitefish.

Saskatchewan contains some large parks, including Prince Albert National Park, a beautiful lake-and-wilderness area north of the city of the same