



Snow peaks tower in the Rocky Mountains.

longest river system in Canada—2,500 miles from the source of the Peace to the mouth of the Mackenzie—almost as long as the Mississippi.

Mineral wealth is also found in this region. Extensive radium and uranium deposits are located on the shores of Great Bear Lake. Along the Athabaska valley are sands impregnated with petroleum. In southern Alberta extensive deposits of coal, oil and natural gas are being worked.

The characteristic aspect of the prairies, however, is still the broad sweep of the large farms, the wide sea of grain ripening in late summer and the silhouette of the grain elevator.

Dog teams travel the far north.



THE MOUNTAIN REGION AND PACIFIC COAST

Although the Prairie Provinces give the impression of being flat, in reality the ground rises gently from east to west—from an elevation of less than 800 feet above sea level at Winnipeg to 3,500 feet at Calgary where the innermost range of the Rockies can be seen in the distance.

The western mountain system extends over most of the province of British Columbia, the Yukon, and part of Alberta. Mount Logan, in the Yukon District, towers to a height of almost 20,000 feet; Mount Robson, in British Columbia, to nearly 13,000 feet. In all, 74 summits are more than 11,000 feet high; over 600 reach heights of 6,000 feet or more.

The Rocky Mountain chain proper is not much more than 70 miles wide. The Columbia River valley separates the Rockies from the central ranges further west which include the Selkirks, the Caribou Range and the Purcells. Deposits of gold, copper, silver and lead occur in many places.

West of the Selkirks lie the fruit orchards of the Okanagan district in a dry belt made fertile by irrigation. The Coast Range extends to the Pacific. Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands are visible evidence of another mountain system submerged under water.

The warm Japanese Current off the coast produces a mild climate. The ocean winds drop most of their moisture in the coastal regions with the result that forests and gardens are almost tropically luxuriant. There are heavy rains in the fall and winter, with fog along the coast and deep snow in the mountains. The summers are usually bright and clear.

The most important timber is the Douglas fir, abundant in the mild climate and heavy rainfall of Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. It grows in dense stands and often attains a height of 300 feet and a diameter of 10 feet. There are also great stands of cedar, spruce, pine and hemlock.

All along the west coast the sea comes in to meet the mountains, with long narrow inlets extending into the precipitous shores. The length of this heavily indented coastline is nearly seven thousand miles. Off-shore the waters teem with halibut, herring and salmon. The most important commercial fish are the salmon which are hatched in fresh water, live to maturity in the open sea but return to their native streams inland to spawn. During the spawning season the Fraser and other coastal rivers gleam red with the crowding salmon as they struggle upstream to lay their eggs.

The broad flats of the Fraser valley provide fertile soil for numerous dairy, truck and poultry farms. In the dry lands of the interior plateau there is excellent range country for cattle and sheep.

Snow lends enchantment

