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spring fishing week-end, the winter skiing excursion, the summer cottage by a tranquil lake—all these are part of the life of many Canadians. In the great National Parks they meet protected wild life: bear, moose and elk. Bighorn sheep gaze down from the Rockies' crags on passing transcontinental trains; deer and fox are startled by automobile headlights in Quebec and Ontario; loons haunt the lakes, fish ripple the surface of the streams, and geese honk across the autumn skies. Every prairie boy knows the thrill of hunting for gopher and prairie chicken, and there are few Canadians who, at some time in their lives, have not dangled a line for bass or pickerel, pike, trout, or grayling.

Canadians are perhaps more conscious than most peoples of the interplay of the seasons, for their country's climate is one of sharp extremes. The summers are usually blazing hot. Even as far north as Fort Smith, a Hudson's Bay trading centre in the Northwest Territories, the thermometer has risen to 103

1. Horses on the open range



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2. Wildfowl abound in Canada

degrees Fahrenheit. The Eastern Canadian autumn is considered the loveliest season of the year. The maples turn with the first frost to gaudy shades of scarlet, orange and maroon, the sumacs to a brilliant crimson and the birches and aspens to pure yellow, so that the entire countryside seems to be aflame.

The winters are invigorating and long. Temperatures on the prairies can go as low as sixty degrees below zero Fahrenheit, but in most other settled parts of Canada they do not often dip far below the zero mark. Most Canadians welcome the arrival of winter, for the crisp, cold days bring a vigour to life which is part of the challenge of the land itself.

Spring comes tardily and is of brief duration: almost overnight the melting snow swells creeks and rivers and even before the snow has gone the hardy crocus gives promise of the warmer days ahead.

Regions of Canada

Because of its enormous size and its complicated geographical structure, Canada may be divided in various ways. Political divisions only roughly approximate geographical and economic regions. A large province, such as Ontario, straddles two different geographical areas; a tiny province, such as Prince Edward Island, forms only a small part of a large economic unit.

Politically, Canada is divided into ten provinces and two northern territories which bear only a rough relationship to the economic regions of the country, which are the Atlantic Seaboard, the St. Lawrence Lowlands, the Prairies, the Pacific Coast and the Frontier.

Bear greeting visitors to National Park in Western Canada

