

Colorado, find their sources within her boundaries. The Columbia flows through her territory 600 miles, the Fraser 750 miles, the Skeena 300 miles; and then there are the Thompson, the Kootenay, the Stikine, the Liard, and the Peace. These with their tributaries drain one-tenth of the North American continent. The water-power is unlimited, and so widely distributed that no part of the Province need be without cheap motor power for all conceivable purposes.

Then there are the railways: the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian National, the Great Northern, the Pacific Great Eastern, the Kettle Valley, the Esquimalt and Nanaimo—a railway mileage in the Province of 2,500 miles, with nearly 3,000 miles in addition under construction, with steam-boats on the inland lakes, and a fleet of ocean-going and coasting vessels as well.

Besides the "sea of mountains," there is that other great sea, the Pacific Ocean, with a coast-line of 7,000 miles, and tide-swept shore estimated to exceed 27,000 miles. It is not surprising that British Columbia leads all the provinces of Canada in fish-production. For the year ending March 31st, 1917, Canada's fish products totalled in value \$39,208,378, of which British Columbia produced \$14,637,436, or 37.33 per cent.—a product which exceeds that of Nova Scotia by \$4,544,444 and equalled the combined product of all the rest of Canada. She is pre-eminently the fishing province of the Dominion, and

apart from the halibut, the principal fish marketed are taken in the estuaries along the coast, the deep indentations in this "sea of mountains."

But I have not yet touched on agriculture in all its forms, fruit growing, dairying, poultry-keeping, bee farming, and the other industries which have made British Columbia so famous. Be it noted that the Pacific Province contains 226,186,370 acres, exclusive of lakes, of which 22,618,000 acres are, according to the Dominion census, suitable for agriculture, and only 313,000 acres or 12.32 is occupied area. Be it noted too, that, according to Professor Macoun, "the whole of British Columbia, south of 52 degrees and east

of the Coast Range (the Interior Plateau) is a grazing country up to 3,500 feet and a farming country up to 2,500 feet, where irrigation is possible. Add to this the climatic conditions, the Japanese Current, and the moisture-laden winds from the Pacific producing the climate of Devonshire and the South of Ireland on the coast and Vancouver Island, the cooler winters when the higher levels are reached in the interior, and the colder weather, bright and dry, east of the Coast Range, and the less developed north, and we have the key to the variation in timber production, to the flora, sub-tropical on the coast and islands, alpine on the mountain sides, and

with innumerable gradations in the valleys of the higher levels until on the east of the Rockies and in the north it merges into the flora of the plains. The capabilities of the soil of these immense districts are practically unlimited. All of it that is not too elevated to serve only for grazing purposes will produce all the ordinary field crops. It has been practically shown that apples will flourish as far north as the 52nd parallel, while in the southern belt peaches and apricots are produced very extensively. Melons and tomatoes are successfully ripened in all settled districts. The fruit acreage has increased from 8,100 acres in 1900, to 38,200 acres in 1913, an increase of 471 per cent. in thirteen years. It has passed the experimental stage, and is now a thriving industry. In grain growing the average yields in 1916 and 1917 were

in bushels per acre, wheat 28.00, oats 55.00 and barley 32.69, and oats yielding 100 bushels per acre were not uncommon. Root crops are prolific, turnips and mangel-wurzels yielding 15 to 16 tons per acre, and potatoes 5.77 tons or 192 bushels. Fodder crops—red clover, alfalfa, corn, sainfoin, alsike, timothy, and brome-grass—produce three crops a season in some localities under favourable circumstances. Tobacco in southern British Columbia, especially in the Okanagan, produces a leaf of superior quality, and can be grown at \$45.00 per acre, and an acre will give an average crop of 1,500 to 2,000 pounds. Dairying is fast becoming one of our most important industries. In the coast



The Hon. F. C. WADE.