



The Yukon River near Dawson City.

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

But the characteristic aspect of the prairie provinces is still determined by the stretch of farmlands to the horizon, their grain golden in the late summer, and the outline of the grain elevators against the sky.

The Mountain Region and Pacific Coast

The western mountain system extends over most of British Columbia, the Yukon, and part of Alberta. Mount Logan, in the Yukon Territory, towers to a height of 19,850 feet; Mount Robson, in British Columbia, to 12,972 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 (112 kilometers) wide. The Columbia River Valley separates the Rockies from the central ranges further west which include

the Selkirks, the Caribou Range and the Purcells. Far to the north on the borders of British Columbia and the Yukon, lies the St. Elias Range. 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 parallels the Pacific. Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands are visible evidence of another partly submerged mountain system.

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 climate of the interior, although winter and summer extremes of temperature are experienced, is characterized by open skies, brilliant sunshine, and

The gold-mining town of Yellowknife on Great Slave Lake, N.W.T., latitude 62° 30' north.

