

CANADA

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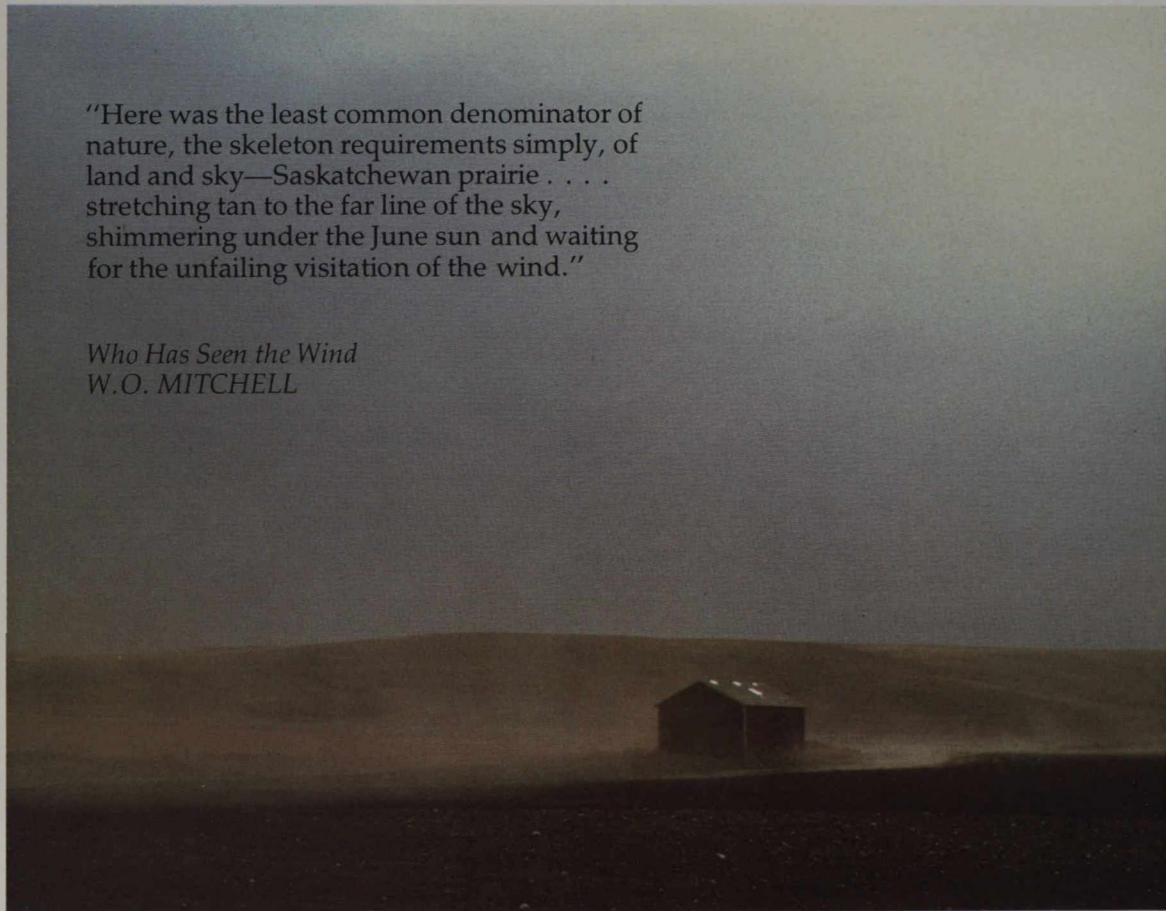
VOLUME TWELVE NUMBER EIGHT SEPTEMBER NINETEEN EIGHTY-ONE



Saskatchewan

"Here was the least common denominator of nature, the skeleton requirements simply, of land and sky—Saskatchewan prairie . . . stretching tan to the far line of the sky, shimmering under the June sun and waiting for the unfailing visitation of the wind."

Who Has Seen the Wind
W.O. MITCHELL



Cinderella Has New Shoes

Saskatchewan, once broke and ravaged by the wind, is still windy but it's no longer ravaged.

It is rich, with an abundance of high priced products—wheat, potash, uranium and oil. Some, like wheat, are renewable and some, like potash, practically inexhaustible.

Bankers and economists say that during the 1980s it will have the greatest sustained growth of all Canadian provinces, including its rich neighbour Alberta.

It will remain rural. Some 970,000 people now share an area larger than Great Britain and Germany combined. It has no heavy industry requiring tens of thousands of workers and it isn't trying to develop any. Last year it stopped losing population, putting an end to the familiar joke:

"Will the last person to leave please put out the lights," and started gaining at a leisurely rate, but no one expects the present modest flow to turn into a rush.

Its farming and mining are mechanized—two or three workers can handle a 1,000 acre farm, and relatively few skilled technicians gather the potash and uranium with expensive and complex machines. The new industries that are taking shape are small-scaled and keyed to the basic farming and mining economy.

Most of Saskatchewan's wealth comes right out of the ground, and much of it is owned, share-and-share-alike, by all of its citizens. The revenues go into a Heritage Fund intended to benefit present and future generations. The Fund, which totaled \$429 million in 1978, is now over \$1 billion and is expected to reach \$1.25 billion by 1982. Cinderella has inherited the earth.

Cover Photo: Dr. Tom Pepper, Director of the Saskatchewan Research Council, in a field outside Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan's Geography

The boundaries of Saskatchewan were drawn by man, not God, and they are as neat as a figure in a geometry class, a parallelogram, 750 miles high, narrower at the top than at the bottom.

The northern edge is rocky, semi-barren taiga, poor in vegetation, rich in lakes and uranium. Below, extending for more than half the province, is woodland, sparse in the northern part, thicker in the south—black spruce, jack pine, tamarack, aspen, black poplar, balsam and fir.

Below the forests is the Aspen Parkland, which combines prairie with groves of trees and shrubs. Between the Parkland and the United States border is the bald prairie, with its dark brown soil, the wheat basket of the country and, to an increasing degree, of the world. Rising in the middle of the prairie is an island of forest in a sea of wheat, the Cypress Hills, where cattle thrive on bluebunch fescue grasses.

Saskatchewan's Not-So-Quiet Revolution

Saskatchewan began with the Liberals in power. Led by Walter Scott, the first premier, they took sixteen of twenty-five legislative seats in 1905, the year the province entered Confederation. They stayed in power, more or less, through the 1940s.

For most of the time since then the province has been run by the social democratic Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and its successor, the New Democratic Party.

The CCF and the NDP evolved out of radical farmer movements that began at the turn of the century and bloomed during the dark days of the 1930s.

Most of the first settlers—farmers from eastern Canada, the Dakotas and Minnesota, non-farmers from Great Britain, nearly half a million people from central Europe, Doukhobors from Russia, and sizeable groups from Scandinavia and Germany—came in a rush in the early 1900s. They found that they had a lot in common—the harsh climate, hard work, the difficulties of providing food, water and shelter, and the overwhelming presence of the flat, wind-swept land. Adversity gave them a sense of unity. As historian John Archer has put it, they found that nationality was not the best test of character and hard work was not in itself enough to usher in the brave new world. They also found a common enemy, the “monied” forces that kept freight rates high and grain prices low.

They formed “non-partisan, non-political” action groups—the Saskatchewan Grain Growers Association (SGGA), the Society of Equity, the Farms Alliance, the Grange, the Patrons of



Industry and the United Farmers—and created the Grain Growers Grain Company to compete with the five grain companies that controlled wheat prices. They gained a seat on the Winnipeg Exchange.

They were united and effective but reluctant to form an actual political party. The powerful SGGA put its faith in the dominant Liberals, and the Liberals, regionally and nationally, did the best they could for the farmers. It wasn't, as it turned out, good enough.

In 1911 the Liberal party endorsed reciprocal trade with the United States, one of the farmers' basic goals, and, as a result, sustained a resounding defeat in the populous East.

The farmers learned a lesson, and a strong SGGA faction began campaigning for clearly defined objectives—tax reform, women's suffrage, proportional representation and social democracy

(including the abolition of titles).

In 1916 the socialistic Non-Partisan League moved north from the Dakotas and by the next year had 5,000 Saskatchewan members. The League called for the government operation of banks, coal mines, water power and forest resources. Its enemies said it was Bolshevistic, and the SGGG gave it only a vague endorsement. When it ran a slate of candidates in the provincial elections, it was badly defeated.

This was only a temporary setback. World War I was raging in Europe, wheat was in demand, and a coalition government, called the Union Party, was in control in Ottawa. The government set up a wartime Wheat Board to market grain, which gave the farmers a pleasant new sense of stability, but when the war was over the Wheat Board went out of existence and the Union government raised the tariff.

Ten western members of Parliament left the coalition and formed the Progressive Party, which swept the Prairies in 1921 and became the second party in strength in the House of Commons with sixty-five seats. The Progressives refused to join the coalition with Mackenzie King's Liberals and declined to be the official party of Opposition and were, as a result, ineffective. They lost forty seats in the 1925 election, and by 1926 the party was in fragments.

In the 1929 Saskatchewan provincial election the Liberals won twenty-eight seats, a plurality, but lost control of the government to the Conservatives who had twenty-five seats and who formed a coalition with the remnants of the Progressives and the Independents, who had five seats each. The Conservatives had also defeated the Liberals nationally, and their government in Ottawa gave the Prairies control of their own natural resources, including oil and minerals, putting them on a par with the other provinces

and providing (though no one knew it) the base for future wealth and power.

Hard times arrived first. The Great Depression began in 1929 and was accompanied in Saskatchewan by continued drought and a plague of grasshoppers. There were violent upheavals. In 1931 the RCMP was called in to control striking miners in Estevan, and three strikers were killed. Wheat and cattle prices hit bottom, and dust storms blew the top soil away. When prices improved in 1934 and 1935, the farmers had nothing to sell.

In 1932 the Independent Labour Party of Saskatchewan and the United Farmers formed a new party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, with a platform calling for the nationalization of railroads, the abolition of the Grain Exchange and a moratorium on debts.

It took twenty-five per cent of the vote in 1934, and in 1936 it took ten seats in the Legislative Assembly to become the official party of Opposition. The hard times were still going on—in 1937, no rain fell in southern Saskatchewan—but the national economy had improved and World War II was about to begin.

In 1944 the CCF, led by Tommy Douglas, took forty-seven seats in the Legislative Assembly to the Liberals' five. It would soon dominate the province.

In 1961 the CCF, represented by Douglas, and labour union representatives met in Ottawa to form the national New Democratic Party. The Liberals, under Ross Thatcher (a former CCF Member of Parliament), gained a majority in Saskatchewan in 1964 but they were out again in 1971, replaced by Allan Blakeney and the NDP. Mr. Blakeney has been in office ever since, and the NDP has continued to shape the provincial government with its version of social democracy at work.



In June, 1935, a train carrying 1,800 unemployed workers stopped in Regina en route to Ottawa to protest conditions in the relief camps. The men were given temporary shelter in Regina while the leaders went on to see Premier Bennett.

Premier Blakeney and the Myth of We and They

The following excerpts are from the Jodidi Lecture delivered by Premier Allan Blakeney at Harvard University in May, 1979. He was commenting on what he termed the "myth" which divides Canadians into those who speak French and an "undifferentiated English-speaking collectivity."

"The fact is that Canada is a collection of quite diverse minorities—and the alliances among these minorities shift on almost every issue.

"My own province of Saskatchewan very effectively refutes the concept of a great English collectivity outside Quebec. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada in which neither those of French or English origin make up a majority of the population. Indeed, taken together, the French and English account for less than half the population. And this diversity in large measure extends across the West.

"We in the West—and here I speak particularly of the agricultural Prairies—feel very much that we are a minority. We have an historical set of grievances against something we call Eastern Canada. Now, we don't really mean 'Eastern' Canada, because the Atlantic Provinces are not involved. And we don't even mean—when we think about it—all of Quebec and Ontario. Our hostilities—our historical grievances—are really focused against the industrial and financial heartland of Canada—the Toronto-Montreal corridor. And with this enemy we are inclined to include a federal government which does the bidding of the owners of that corridor to the detriment of the West.

"So we in the West have our own myths. Our 'we-they' formulation is the Western minority against the Eastern Canadian majority. And we lump French Quebec and English Ontario into an undifferentiated collectivity.

"Our myth is no more valid than [the other] but it is embedded in a set of realities."

The Dry, Dry Prairies

A group of Ontario citizens founded the city of Saskatoon as a Temperance Colony in 1882. Settlers were asked to sign a bond which read in part:

"In consideration of my acceptance by the Temperance Colonization Society (Ltd.) as an applicant for land . . . I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, covenant and agree . . . that I, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns will not: sell or exchange any wines, beer, ale, spirits, intoxicating liquors, or intoxicants of any kind whatever on or upon any of the lands covered by the agreement aforesaid."



Premier Allan Blakeney

Palliser's Triangle

Mark a map of Canada with dots to show population clusters and, with one exception, the dots will be thickest along navigable waters—the ocean shores, the Great Lakes, the banks of the St. Lawrence and other rivers.

The exception is Palliser's Triangle.

In 1857 the British government, concerned that if it didn't settle the interior plains Americans would, sent Captain John Palliser, a buffalo hunter, to check out the possibilities of the grasslands.

Palliser's party traveled the prairies for two years, covering what would be known as Palliser's Triangle—most of southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, and the southwest corner of Manitoba.

He reported that the land was far too dry to support farming. He was, as it turned out, wrong.

Why There Are No Trees on the Prairie

Grasses, including wheat, have roots that find and use every last drop of moisture in the soil.

Trees are less efficient. If one is planted in the semi-arid prairie and left to its own devices, its leaves will lose more water by evaporation than its roots can find and it will die.

Saskatchewan Through the Eighties

Fifty years ago the province was Canada's poorest, dependent on one-crop agriculture, its farmers broke and resentful. Today Saskatchewan produces sixty per cent of Canada's wheat, a third of its oats and barley and almost a third of its oil seeds. It has vast mineral resources and great plans. It intends to increase grain exports by fifty per cent by 1985, double its rate of uranium

production and expand the potash output substantially.

The extraordinary change reflects more than good fortune (although good fortune has not been lacking). The CCF/NDP governments have invested billions of dollars in flexible public businesses called crown corporations. Through these the citizens own many of the mining and refining facilities of the province and produce much of their own power.

Agriculture

Saskatchewan's annual gross farm income is over \$3 billion.

The province has more than half of Canada's prime farmland, divided among 70,000 big farms (averaging 950 acres). Most Saskatchewan towns are farm towns.

More than half the farmers (53.1 per cent) raise wheat. This year production is expected to be over twenty per cent higher than last. The Canadian Wheat Board buys and markets the pooled wheat at home and abroad.

A half dozen federal and provincial marketing and insurance programs protect the farmers from the cyclical disasters that once haunted them. This spring, for example, the federal government paid \$43,000,000 to 150,000 western farmers as compensation for losses suffered during the embargo of grain shipments to the USSR last year.

When Saskatchewan was losing population and there was a general concern that family farmers would be replaced by national or multinational agribusiness operations, the province began buying farms from farmers who wished to retire (today a farm may be sold for \$250,000 or more) and leasing them to young farmers with an option to buy. The land bank has worked well and the family farm is surviving. Non-residents of Saskatchewan may not buy more than ten acres of farmland.



Soil, topography and climate favoured the development of a wheat-based economy in Saskatchewan.



An oil rig on a Saskatchewan farm, a common sight in Canada's second oil producing province.

The growing world population requires as much additional grain each year as Canada produces. Twenty years ago Canada sold one-sixth of its grain to developing countries; today it sells one-half, and the Canadian Wheat Board significantly expanded its market when it sold 51.4 million bushels of wheat to China this spring. Saskatchewan's ability to meet the Board's export target of 30 million tons (1,100 million bushels) annually by 1985 is limited only by the size of its storage, transportation and handling facilities, and these limitations are being overcome.

The provincial government bought 1,000 grain hopper cars in 1980 and plans to add 2,000 more. The grain handling capacity of Saskatchewan's facilities at Vancouver, B.C., has been enlarged, and new terminals are being built at Prince Rupert, B.C.

Oil

The most readily marketable oils are light and medium. They can be refined into gasoline and heating fuel and transported through pipelines.

Alberta is the first light and medium oil producer of Canada by a wide margin. Saskatchewan is second.

Saskatchewan also produces (and has vast reserves of) a heavy oil used primarily to make asphalt.

One-third of the province's current production is light, one-fourth medium and the rest heavy. About fifty-five per cent of the total production of light and medium is sold in Ontario and Quebec. The heavy oil is sold in the upper midwestern United States.

Saskatchewan has about twenty-five billion barrels of heavy oil underground, but it is thick and viscous, hard to recover, hard to transport and difficult to refine.

Oil income (\$720 million in 1979) will be greatly increased if the province succeeds in finding ways to upgrade it and increase the amount recoverable.

The federal and provincial governments are

sponsoring pilot research projects designed to increase recovery. The provincial government is studying the practicality of upgrading the heavy oil to make it fluid enough for pipeline shipment and of refining it to a point where it could be used for conventional petroleum products. If the study is favourable, at least one upgrading plant will be constructed.

Natural Gas

Saskatchewan has an estimated 1,304,000 million cubic feet of natural gas in reserve that is economically recoverable at today's prices. It has an additional 1,438,000 million cubic feet of less economical reserves.

All the natural gas produced is used in the province, most of it distributed through the publicly owned Saskatchewan Power Corporation. The domestic gas provides thirty-six per cent of the province's needs. The rest is brought in from Alberta.

Uranium

Saskatchewan has some of the world's highest grade uranium deposits.

Two privately owned mines produced \$218 million worth of uranium oxide in 1979. Since then the Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation, a provincial crown corporation, has become much involved in the development of new mines, and production is increasing dramatically.

SMDC owns twenty per cent of the Cluff Lake mine being developed by Amok Ltd. and fifty per cent of the mine at Key Lake. Both have deposits of an exceptionally high grade, and when they are in full operation by the mid-1980s, their combined production will be more than double that of the privately owned mines. Since both use open-pit mining techniques they will be economical to run.

Additional major uranium deposits have been identified at Midwest Lake, Keefe-Henday Lakes and Maclean Lake. Sales of uranium are expected to approach \$1,000 million by 1990.



A uranium mine in Eldorado, north of Lake Athabasca.



Potash Mining & Refining Ltd.'s Cory Division Mine near Saskatoon.

Potash

Potash is an essential fertilizer, and Saskatchewan has over forty per cent of the world's recoverable supply. It has ten producing mines, and the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, a crown corporation, owns three and has an interest in two others. It is estimated that the province could supply the world market for well over 1,000 years.

In 1979 it shipped \$695 million worth, mostly to Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. It also sells to Japan, Brazil, India and South Korea, and the world market is expanding rapidly.

The mines are all highly mechanized, and because of the regularity and thickness of the ore production, costs are lower than the industry average.

Coal and Electrical Energy

The government of Saskatchewan generates about seventy per cent of the province's electrical energy by burning low-grade brown lignite coal. Lignite is low in sulphur and relatively non-polluting.

The Interprovincial Pipe and Steel Company Ltd., which is owned in part by the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta, is considering using lignite in the direct ore reduction process in making steel.

The province has about 7,620 million tons of lignite, a supply for roughly 1,000 years at today's rate of consumption.

Forests

The province has 58,000 square miles of commercial forest containing 17,000 million cubic feet of saleable lumber. The Prince Albert Pulp Co., Ltd., in which the government has an interest, is engaged in a \$40 million modernization program. The gross value of timber production in 1979 was \$200 million.

How Saskatchewan Got Its Oil, Its Potash and Its Deep Fertile Soil

(The first 600,000,000 years were the hardest.)

Saskatchewan began as a bowl of Precambrian rock, 6,000 feet below its present surface. There was no soil. North America sank slowly and the sea flowed north from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi trench, filling the bowl with warm, salt, shallow water. In time the weathering of the rock produced sediment that sank to the bottom of the sea, burying endless generations of tiny sea creatures. As the eons passed, the sea retreated and returned, retreated and returned.

Billions of fish evolved and died, and their bones were buried. Along the muddy shore the first land plants evolved from seaweed took root. The sea evaporated slowly, leaving thick new layers of potassium chloride mixed with sodium chloride, the future potash. The greatest forests of



all time grew in the marsh. There were dragonflies with thirty-inch wingspans and eight hundred species of cockroach, some four inches long. Trees with great pulpy trunks rose sixty feet or more, toppled into the brackish marsh and slowly decomposed into layers of peat. The peat was compressed by the weight of more rotting vegetation into lignite coal. Dinosaurs evolved and were followed by birds.

Some 70,000,000 years ago North America changed drastically. The earth's crust heaved and folded, forming the Rocky Mountains and blocking the flow of warm air inland. The Rockies channeled cold winds down from the north. The sea withdrew and Saskatchewan's climate changed from tropical to temperate. The flying reptiles, the dinosaurs and the giant forests of ferns and sequoias disappeared. Dust storms blew for centuries, piling up crumbled rock, sand and clay hundreds of feet deep. Flowering plants and hardwood trees flourished. The mammals arrived.

For almost a million years a succession of glaciers came and went. The last, thousands of feet high, covered the Canadian Shield and the prairies some 15,000 years ago. When it retreated it left Lake Agassiz behind, covering the eastern prairie. As the lake drained off into Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan became a semi-arid prairie with hills in the middle and lakes in the north, much as it is today. After many a spring the first human beings arrived, some 8,000 years ago.

The Nature of the Prairie

Below is an excerpt from *The Colour of Canada*, by Hugh MacLennan.

"Often when you drive along a prairie road, running straight to the horizon, you have the illusion that something is the matter with your car—that it has become stationary. When you fly across it after dark it seems dotted with fireflies—lights from barns and windows of farmhouses with occasionally a blaze of light that is a city or town. This is a land that can best be described in music, but the music to describe it has yet to be written."

The Settlers



Three generations of Croatian settlers in Kenaston, Saskatchewan, c. 1910.

The first Indians came to Saskatchewan about 8,000 years ago. Another wave from the eastern forests arrived about 5,000 years later. The first white man, Henry Kelsey, a surveyor for the fur companies, came in 1690, and the French Canadian explorers, La Vérendrye and his sons, arrived by way of the Great Lakes in 1733. The Chevalier de la Corne built Fort St. Louis twenty years later and planted the first prairie corn.

Occasional Englishmen wandered in during the last half of the eighteenth century, and in 1876 and 1877 the Sioux, fleeing from the Dakotas after destroying Custer and his men at the Little Big Horn, moved in and were pacified by a handful of RCMP. The Canadian Pacific brought settlers in increasing number, and the first elected Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories met in Regina in 1888. For the next two decades the immigrants from Europe poured in, and Saskatchewan became a Canadian province in 1905.

Research and Development

The Saskatchewan Research Council turns milkweed into fuel and chaff into cattle feed. It uses snow to save energy and the province's natural refrigeration to get the salt out of water.

The Council was established by act of the

Legislative Assembly in 1954. It has eighteen members and a summer staff of around 250. It has five divisions—Chemistry and Biology, Engineering, Geology, Industrial Services and Physics—two pilot plants, a remarkable chemical analytical laboratory and a nuclear reactor, called Slowpoke, also used for analysis.

It received \$2,728,000 from the provincial government last year and over \$4 million in fees from more than 250 private and public clients.

Its scientists have:

- Conducted a five-year study on the use of straw and chaff as fodder. It was found that ammoniating them made them useful for animal feed and that the chaff was particularly nutritious for sheep. They also found that when a nitrogen fertilizer was applied to the straw early in the season its protein content increased significantly and it was more digestible. Sunflower residues showed high feed values, but unfortunately Saskatchewan does not grow great crops of sunflowers.
- Found that tall patches of standing stubble accumulate snow, retaining moisture for winter fields. The higher crop yields provide a thirty-four to forty-four per cent better return on the fuel used for farm machinery. Legumes grown in rotation with normal crops save fuel by reducing the need for nitrogen fertilizer. It is believed that when the techniques are used together the moisture from the snow could compensate for the moisture depleted by the growing of legumes. The reduction or elimination of conventional tillage and the use of herbicides to control weeds also greatly reduce the fuel required. The cost of the herbicides is considerably less than the cost of fuel.
- Discovered that winter dust in barns carries bacteria which causes diseases among farm animals. A computer model of an air-exchange system for a turkey barn is being developed to provide an optimum balance between air quality and energy saving.
- Created a simple, inexpensive, small-scale way to desalinate brackish ground water (of which the province has great quantities). It involves spray freezing, using the low winter temperatures.

In conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan, the Council is now studying the use of rapeseed oil in diesel engines. It also has a leading



The Chemistry and Biology and Physics Divisions of the Saskatchewan Research Council are located in Innovation Place, in the Saskatoon Research Park on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan.

edge in home insulation research. A family of four occupying a specially insulated home in Regina sponsored by the Council has a projected annual net gas bill of \$45—\$75 for domestic hot water and \$30 for space heating.

The SRC also conducts market studies, consumer surveys and other services for business and industry and publishes the results in its monthly *Industrial Business Management Technology* bulletin. The bulletin has 4,000 subscribers.

The RCMP



North West Mounted Police barracks and square in Regina, 1885.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police train all recruits at the Depot in Regina. They attend classes and drill indoors and out for nine months.

They are direct professional descendants of the North West Mounted Police who came to the territory of Saskatchewan in 1874.

The NWMP was formed a year earlier after wolf hunters from the United States invaded an Indian camp and killed twenty Assiniboine Indians and a single eastern Canadian in a drunken melee in the Cypress Hills.

The first contingent came to Fort Dufferin on the Red River in bright red coats, with wagons, carts, field guns, cattle and machines for mowing hay for their horses.

They suppressed the illegal liquor trade and won the respect of both the Indians and the scattered white settlers.

In 1882 their headquarters was moved to a creek crossing known as Pile of Bones, selected as the new capital for the Northwest Territories and soon renamed Regina after Queen Victoria.

The Rivers Flow North

When the prairie glaciers retreated they went downhill into Hudson Bay. Below the border is



The Missouri River and Hudson Bay watersheds, separated for 10,000 years by a continental divide, have had time to develop distinct flora and fauna, which may be threatened by the planned Garrison Diversion irrigation project in North Dakota.

North Dakota, crossed by a divide. The water above the divide drains north into the Hudson Bay, while the rivers below drain south. The drainage does not follow compass courses, and Saskatchewan's Souris and Assiniboine flow south for a while. The Souris actually dips down into North Dakota, but then it turns around and joins first the Assiniboine in Manitoba and then the Red River and empties into Lake Winnipeg.

The pattern of flow is now of major concern because of the planned Garrison Diversion irrigation project in North Dakota. The Diversion would link the south-flowing Missouri to the north-flowing Cheyenne, and introduce southern fish and fish eggs as well as parasites and fish diseases into the northern rivers. This could have a disastrous effect on the commercial fishing industry in lakes Winnipeg, Playgreen, Manitoba and Winnipegosis. "Rough" Missouri fish, the gizzard shad, rainbow smelt and Utah chub, eat the same food as the commercially valuable whitefish, walleye and sauger. Scientists believe the rough fish would soon destroy the gentler ones.

Towns and Cities

Saskatchewan is a place of small cities and even smaller towns. Regina, the capital and the biggest city, has more than 150,000 people, the University of Regina and a remarkable reservoir.

When Regina was picked as the Territorial capital it had no trees, no hills and no water other than a shallow reservoir formed by damming Wascana creek. In 1906 the legislature of the brand-new province decided to make the reservoir area into a park. Trees were planted. During the Depression the reservoir was drained and deepened and waste materials were dumped in the new lake to form islands. Today the unique



The Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. Across the river is the University.

Wascana Centre includes the park, the legislative building, the University of Regina, the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and the Saskatchewan Centre of Arts.

Saskatoon, the second largest city, has close to 150,000 people and is one of the loveliest cities in Canada. The handsome buildings of the University of Saskatchewan are spread around the lush campus on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

Moose Jaw, the third city, which now has about 40,000 people, had its origins as a railroad camp during the construction of the CPR. Its name probably derives from an Indian word meaning "warm breezes." Prince Albert has around 30,000 people; Swift Current, Yorkton and North Battleford have fewer than 20,000 each.

Nearly one-fourth of Saskatchewan's people live in communities with populations of less than 1,000.

A Message to Macdonald

The historical grievances of the prairies began before Saskatchewan was a province and before most of the white settlers arrived. The Métis, the people of mixed Indian and European ancestry who had been on the prairies for generations, found the opening up of the West to farmer settlers threatening. When the federal government failed to recognize their land claims, they rebelled, in 1869 and again in 1885. They were led by Louis Riel, who was hanged for treason after the second uprising, and by Gabriel Dumont, who escaped to temporary exile in the United States.

It is now recognized that the Métis claims had substance and that a more responsive government might have avoided the final conflict. Dumont tried in vain to gain the government's attention in 1882 when he sent a petition directly to the Prime Minister. A portion of it follows:



Gabriel Dumont. After the Rebellion he escaped to the U.S. and joined Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show.

ST ANTOINE DE'PADOU,
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN,
4th September, 1882.

To the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald:

Sir,—We the undersigned French half-breeds, for the most part settled on the west bank of the Saskatchewan, in the district of Prince Albert, N.W.T., hereby approach you, in order to set forth with confidence the painful position in which we are placed

"Compelled, most of us, to abandon the prairie, which can no longer furnish us the means of subsistence, we came in large numbers, during the course of the summer, and settled on the south branch of the Saskatchewan The surveyed lands being already occupied or sold, we were compelled to occupy lands not yet surveyed, being ignorant, for the most part, also, of the regulations of the Government respecting Dominion lands. Great then was our astonishment and perplexity when we were notified, that when the lands are surveyed we shall be obliged to pay \$2 an acre to the Government, if our lands are included in odd-numbered sections. We desire, moreover, to keep close together, in order more easily to secure a school and a church. We are poor people and cannot pay for our land without utter ruin, and losing the fruits of our labor and seeing our lands pass into the hands of strangers, who will go to the land office at Prince Albert and pay the amount fixed by the Government. In our anxiety we appeal to your sense of justice as Minister of the Interior and head of the Government, and beg you to reassure us speedily, by directing that we shall not be disturbed on our lands"

From *Canada Sessional Papers*, No. 116, 1885



The highest point in Saskatchewan is in the Cypress Hills.

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