

The economic frontier is being pushed northward over the whole of Canada in search of iron, uranium, water power, oil, lead, zinc, nickel, copper and many other rare metals. It is these ventures that may possibly make Canada one of the very first industrial powers long before the end of the present century.

More prosaic developments have, however, to be thanked for the more than doubling since 1939 of Canada's gross national product; for the rise of 50 per cent in purchasing value of income per head. Agriculture and forestry have been prosperous and the relatively long-established industrialization of eastern and far western Canada has been greatly intensified. This is the first, and still by far the most important, of the two Canadian booms.

The total of Canada's industrial production more than doubled between 1939 and 1952. Steel production, which stood at one and one-half million tons in 1939, has now more than doubled. Large expansion and new techniques are also taking place in oil refining, the petro-chemical industry and in other chemical industries. Over the last decade, many branches of the heavy and light machinery, electrical and other engineering industries have grown almost beyond recognition. The atomic pile at Chalk River, Ontario, and the production of jet aircraft in Montreal and Toronto are merely two of the more conspicuous examples of an industrial advancement that is also reflected in the rapid expansion of light consumer industries of almost every kind.

But impressive as these developments are, they do not fully reflect the newly-found riches among Canada's natural resources. The post-war expansion of output is not the fruit of exploration into the undeveloped wilderness; it is in part the fruit of developed Canada's proximity to the United States and the fact that the commodities Canada is best able to produce are the ones of which the world has greatest need. Our present prosperity is not, therefore, what it is often assumed by some to be, the result of risky ventures in primary production, rapidly creating a new economy. It is the balanced response of a vigorous but established economy to unusually favourable conditions of demand for its products.

In comparison with the industrial output of southern Ontario and Quebec, that of the western Canadian provinces and, on a smaller scale, Newfoundland and northern Canada as a whole, is far outstripping the rest of Canada in their present pace of development. This is the second Canadian boom, and I should like to take a few minutes of your time to tell you something of this development.

First: electric power. Almost all Canadian electrical power is hydro-electric. At the present time, Canada, with a population of some 15,000,000, or little more than one quarter of that of the United Kingdom, uses practically the same amount of electrical power. The potential power in Canada available is said to be in the neighbourhood of 65 million horsepower. We are using only one-fifth of this at the present time. The increase in developed power capacity in recent years is a remarkable evidence of Canadian economic expansion. Installed hydro-electric capacity increased from 8,300,000 h.p. in 1939 to