

MANITOBA—WEST INDIES TRADE

A four-member task force left Winnipeg for the West Indies last month on a trade mission sponsored by the Manitoba Department of Industry and Commerce.

The purpose of the mission, which is the first such project undertaken by a provincial government, is to make known Manitoba's talent in architecture, engineering and major construction to the economically-growing Caribbean area. The province hopes for an expansion of Manitoba professional services into international operations.

The total value of Canadian professional services involved in foreign projects was \$25 million in 1965 and \$34 million in 1966. Of this 1966 figure, Ontario received \$13.2 million, British Columbia \$11.1 million, Quebec \$9.8 million and the Prairies and Maritimes \$200,000. One hundred Canadian firms were engaged in foreign assignments in 1966. Of these, six were Manitoba firms.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA VIEWED

As a result of letters sent earlier this year by Prime Minister Pearson to the premiers of Ontario and Quebec, the Federal Government and the governments of Ontario and Quebec have agreed to appoint senior officials to undertake jointly a study with a view to recommending the necessary steps that might be taken co-operatively to develop a national capital area, extending on both sides of the Ottawa River. The study will proceed on the assumption that any recommendation should not involve constitutional change or any alteration of provincial boundaries and that there would be full consultation with all municipal authorities. It has also been agreed that the first meeting of the representatives appointed for this purpose should take place shortly and that a more detailed announcement would be made before the end of the year.

ALBERTA'S GIANT OIL PROJECT

The largest industrial project ever completed in Alberta has gone into operation with the opening of the plant of Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited north of Fort McMurray.

From the start of construction in 1964 to the official opening on September 30, 1967, a total of \$235 million has been invested in this plant, the first of its kind in the world.

It is the first major commercial venture to use the vast petroleum resources of the Athabasca sands, long estimated to contain the largest accumulation of oil in the world, apart from shale oil. The estimated reserve is more than 600 billion barrels, of which 300 billion barrels are considered to be ultimately recoverable.

DAILY YIELD

The oil sands underlie an area of 30,000 square miles. The Great Canadian Oil Sands lease covers 6.6 square miles — twentieth of 1 per cent of the total, yet its reserves are sufficient to operate the plant for 30 years at its initial allowable rate of 45,000 barrels a day.

Everything in this pioneering installation is on a giant scale. After the earth "over-burden" is scraped away from the surface, the exposed oil sands, 150 feet thick, are mined by two huge bucketwheel excavators, 12 storeys high, each weighing 1,700 tons and costing \$3.5 million. The buckets bite out 20 tons of sand with each revolution of the 30-foot wheel, for a total daily production of 108,000 tons.

Six-foot wide conveyor belts, speeding along at 1,000 feet a minute, carry the sand to the elevated bins of the processing plant. By the time the excavators eat their way to the outer limits of the lease, the conveyor belts will have stretched five miles long, and will still be carrying each day as much oil sands as a 16-mile-long railway could haul.

The end-product of the processing-plant, synthetic crude, is a clear, water-like liquid, extremely low in sulphur, nitrogen and oxygen, and an excellent raw material for the manufacture of gasoline, kerosene and heating oil. On its way to market, the synthetic crude enters a new 266-mile, 16-inch pipeline, owned by the company, to Edmonton, to connect with the Interprovincial Pipeline.

TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

Cigarettes entered for consumption in Canada during October numbered 4,051,342,445; last year's October total was 3,894,300,975. Cigars were up to 42,139,140 from 36,103,275. Other tobacco products entered for consumption were as follows: cut tobacco, 1,317,456 pounds (1,323,644 in October 1966); plug tobacco, 70,050 pounds (67,028); snuff, 35,340 pounds (79,876) and Canadian raw leaf tobacco, 50,291 pounds (57,470). Cigarettes released for export during the month numbered 11,166,000 and for ships' stores numbered 33,429,500.

FLYING ACE HONOURED

The late Air-Marshals W.A. ("Billy") Bishop, the Canadian fighter-pilot ace who, in the First World War, led all airmen in the British Commonwealth with 72 victories, was last summer named to the International Aerospace Hall of Fame. Situated in the Aerospace Museum in San Diego, California, the Hall of Fame enshrines the memory of 21 pioneers in aviation.

Air-Marshals Bishop, nicknamed "Hell's Handmaiden" by the enemy, won the VC, DSO, MC and the DFC during his two tours of duty. A native of Owen Sound, Ontario, he was called back to duty in the