

The federal government recognizes the value of organizations such as the Chamber of Mines and of the actively interested Chambers of Commerce in the epic task of opening up and properly utilizing the natural resources of the great north country.

As a result of the marked expansion of services in the North, the picture of our northern regions is no longer one of the lone prospector painfully picking his way across uncharted wastes.

Today by plane, motorboat or snowmobile he is following the pioneering work of geologists, geographers and survey engineers.

The Federal Government offers a wide variety of services invaluable to the northern prospector, miner and metallurgist. Federal agencies are especially well equipped to assist in geological mapping, in surveying and otherwise advancing the industry, the New North and the nation. Scientific surveys have done much to help develop the Canadian North and are being continued.

The general uptrend in the mining industry of the north country finds its reflection in the number of additional requests received by the Department of Resources and Development for increases in highway facilities and in electric power production.

In the matter of power supply, the Northwest Territories Power Commission constructed a transmission line connecting the Yellowknife terminal of the Snare River line with that of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company adjacent to the town. This arrangement enables the Commission to deliver power to the Yellowknife Power Company for sale within the town limits. In addition good progress has been made in the construction of diesel-generated power plants at Fort Smith and Hay River.

Water and highway transportation into and through the Northwest Territories has also improved in recent years. Over 2,500 miles of river routes link together the main settlements north of Edmonton. The construction of the Mackenzie Highway has been of remarkable benefit to mining and fisheries enterprises in the Great Slave Lake area.

The Federal Government's Northern Transportation Company has acquired a score of heavy tugs designed to haul freight barges. The Company possesses sixty barges with a total carrying capacity ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 tons, as water levels vary. Freight rates have recently been reduced by the Company.

In the Yukon, water transportation, the Alaska Highway and various access roads expedite the movement of forest protection crews with the most modern fire-fighting equipment. In the Northwest Territories transportation by plane is added.

In the Yukon Territory significant developments are also taking place. The Federal Government is spending \$2,400,000 on road improvements in the Yukon during the present fiscal year. The building of the road link between Carmacks and Whitehorse will provide an access road from the Alaska Highway to Mayo.

The appropriation of \$500,000 for a power development at Mayo enables the Northwest Territories and Yukon Power Commission to make a start in the development of hydro-electric power at Mayo. This project is designed to facilitate the production of silver-lead ores in the Mayo and Keno mining district.

The ultimate cost of the project will be about \$3,000,000 and the maximum capacity of the plant will be between 6,000 and 8,000 horse power.

It is expected that the first stage of the project will result in the production of 3,000 horse power. Physical work on this power development should be completed by 1951. Because of the time required to secure and install machinery, it is not likely that power will be delivered until 1952.