

## ALBERTA'S NEW RAILWAY

The driving of the traditional last golden spike and the turning of the last plated bolt at a ceremony at Grande Prairie at the end of May heralded the completion of the \$96-million Alberta Resources Railway. The new line will provide the first economic means of access to rich lodes of mineral, forest, agricultural and recreational resources hitherto beyond reach of development.

Coal, one of the first of these to be developed, is now being mined for shipment under a long term contract to Japanese interests. The contract, for 29.5 million long tons worth \$450 million over 15 years, will be moved over the ARR to Pacific Coast points of shipment, in highly efficient 10,000-ton unit trains.

Other uses for resources are being studied and developed by commercial interests, which will materially benefit the economy of the province.

Not since the transcontinental railway lines were completed many years ago has there been construction as heavy as that experienced in the building of the 234-mile Alberta Resources Railway through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Because the railway parallels the main range it must cross numerous watersheds carved out by the drainage from the high peaks nearby, resulting in 16 bridges along the route with a combined length of two miles. Six of them are major structures, each

more than 500 feet long. One has a height of 200 feet, two are 190 feet and a fourth is 110 feet high.

### ALONG THE ROUTE

From its start on the Canadian National main line at Brule, 16 miles west of Hinton, the route ascends nearly 2,000 feet to a summit at Mile 60 in the vicinity of Shand Creek, elevation 4,970 feet. It carries on through rugged terrain to Mile 75 and then begins a gradual descent to the valley of the Smoky River.

At Mile 110, the railway reaches its first major objective, the coal mines of the Smoky. Before the lines leave the Smoky it will have followed the river for 80 miles and crossed its valley three times.

Brawling and immature, the Smoky River is tight and narrow in its upper reaches and required very heavy work to overcome the obstacles to construction.

Shortly after leaving the Smoky the line emerges on to a plateau at Mile 195 and crosses it for 40 miles through potentially fertile farmland into Grande Prairie.

The design and construction of the Alberta Resources Railway took three years, requiring the excavation and placement of 45 million cubic yards of materials.

## PAPER FOR THE CONGO

Canada is providing 2,100 tons of printing paper as part of the contribution of the Canadian International Development Agency's programme of textbook production in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa).

The paper, valued at about \$810,000, will be provided over the next three years to produce an estimated 12 million textbooks for the country's primary and secondary schools. This is part of a project that began in 1966, when Canada agreed to provide 900 tons of paper to the Congo. The last shipment of that consignment was made last December and will complete the production of approximately 5,200,000 textbooks, a substantial part of the Education Ministry's needs. The extension of this programme will ensure continued support to a vital sector of the Congo's economy.

## MANPOWER MOBILITY FACILITATED

Canadian workers will benefit from changes in the Manpower Mobility Programme announced recently, by Manpower and Immigration Minister Allan J. MacEachen.

The changes are intended, Mr. MacEachen says,

to render the programme more meaningful for workers with large families, many of whom now live on the bitter edges of poverty. They will also help families who now own homes in areas that have become declining labour markets and who need to move to find work.

Mr. MacEachen cited three changes in the mobility regulations that went into effect on May 15. All relate to manpower mobility relocation grants, which may be authorized for unemployed or underemployed workers who cannot get suitable employment locally and who have good jobs confirmed in more productive areas. They cover removal and travel expenses, a re-establishment allowance and a special allowance for homeowners who sell or buy when they move.

The re-establishment allowances are restructured to favour large families, and the ceiling of \$1,000 is removed. Single workers, for instance, will receive \$100, couples with one child \$400, couples with three children \$700 and so on. A man and wife with ten children may now receive \$1,400 whereas before they would have been limited to \$1,000.

### HOUSING ALLOWANCE INCREASED

A second change announced by the Minister increases the housing allowance from \$500 to a total of \$1,500. This recommendation is in line with the