



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE PROMISE OF THE NORTH

An address by the Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, and Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Major-General H.A. Young, delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Manufacturing Association, Toronto, May 28, 1953.

During the past ten years or so popular interest has become increasingly focused on the development of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. This interest is founded on the substantial developments that have already taken place in those territories, and it is maintained and stimulated by the even brighter prospects that appear to lie ahead. A further contributing factor, I suspect, is the romance that always attaches itself to the opening up of a frontier region, even when accomplished with the aid of aircraft and Geiger counters rather than with dog teams and pick.

Up to the present very little of the development of the territories has been in manufacturing, and the little that has taken place in that field has been mainly in the form of concentrators for the mining industry. There are, however, prospects now being studied which, if they materialize, could well bring a smelter to the Northwest Territories and a fairly wide range of electrometallurgical and electrochemical industries to the Yukon or northern British Columbia. If this should happen, the centres of population which would spring up might well of themselves provide a stimulus for the establishment of additional secondary manufacturing industries.

However, before I talk about the possible development of northern manufacturing let me first describe briefly the mineral and water-power resources of the territories, because it is on the development of these resources that the expansion of manufacturing will depend. First, a word about the physical characteristics of the region. The climate is rigorous, but this is not so serious a factor as I think many people imagine. Practically all of the Yukon and of the western mainland portion of the Northwest Territories lies in the sub-Arctic rather than in the Arctic, if we take the geographer's definition of the Arctic. This definition is the region where the average mean temperature of the warmest month of the year does not exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit, which coincides very closely with the tree line. The only portions of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon where active mineral exploration is now taking place and which can be described as Arctic are the northern coasts of the two territories and the Keewatin District of the Northwest Territories, which lies to the west of Hudson Bay.

The winters in these sub-Arctic regions are certainly cold, but the summers are not so much cooler than here in Ontario. For example, at Fort Smith, which is typical of the region where Yellowknife lies, the average daily mean temperature in January is about 30 degrees less than that of Ottawa, but the average daily mean temperature in July is only 10 degrees less than that of Ottawa.