

UK MISSION HERE

A United Kingdom trade mission of eight topflight British industrialists, with several expert advisers, has started a month-long tour of investigation in Canada.

The visitors were met on arrival by F.G. Rutley, president of the Foundation Co. of Canada Ltd., and Montreal regional director of Canada's Dollar-Sterling Trade Council. This council was recently expanded by creation of regional committees to further its aim of encouraging British imports into Canada, and thus to promote two-way trade by raising Britain's capacity to purchase Canadian products.

Similar objectives are being sought by the mission and its sponsoring Dollar Exports Council, it was emphasized by Sir William Rootes, head of the mission and chairman of the Dollar Exports Council. Sir William is chairman of the Rootes Group of automotive companies in Britain.

The immediate aim of the mission, he indicated was to follow up and develop the stimulus to Canada-U.K. trade arising out of the four-week tour of Britain late last year by a party of Canadian industrialists and businessmen. The recently published report of the Canadian mission saw great potentialities for increasing U.K. Canadian trade, which British interests were urged to investigate.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

An upswing in private investment for the development of resources in Canada's North was reported by Mr. William Hamilton, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, in a press conference held last week in Ottawa.

Mr. Hamilton also predicted a rich harvest for Canada in minerals and in new sources of gas and oil in offshore and underwater land masses as a result of a decision of the International Conference of the Law of the Sea recognizing national sovereignty over resources in the Continental Shelf.

Mr. Hamilton said that since last September 33 companies had taken out permits to search for oil on 27,000,000 acres of the Northwest and Yukon Territories.

The two main areas being explored, Eagle Plain and Peel Plateau, are adjacent to the \$8,000,000 highway being built from Flat Creek, south of Dawson, to Fort McPherson. Detailed survey work will be undertaken this year with construction crews moving in next spring. Completion date is 1962.

More than 602 oil exploration permits have been issued to about 200 different firms, including subsidiaries of the major companies.

The companies have paid the federal treasury about \$1,400,000 for their permits but the money will be returned if the initial ex-

ploration work stipulated by the permits is carried out.

Mr. Hamilton said the Government's policy of limiting charges for exploration rights was aimed at encouraging more extensive search for oil in the Canadian North.

LEADING MINERALS, 1957

Record amounts of copper, nickel, crude petroleum, natural gas and cement, and near-record quantities of iron ore and asbestos were produced in Canada last year, Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its December report on leading minerals. In all, there were larger production totals than in 1956 for 9 of the 16 minerals listed.

Year's production totals: copper, 360,745 tons (354,860 in 1956); nickel, 188,962 tons (178,515); crude petroleum, 181,845,637 barrels (171,981,413); natural gas, 220,094,105 M cubic feet (169,152,586); asbestos, 1,048,084 tons (1,014,249); cement, 6,066,381 tons (5,021,683); and iron ore, 22,303,483 tons (22,348,278).

Gold production in 1957 amounted to 4,419,383 fine ounces (4,383,863 in 1956); coal, 13,189,155 tons (14,915,610); lead, 181,690 tons (188,854); zinc, 409,528 tons (422,633); clay products, \$34,904,945 (\$37,387,757); gypsum, 4,598,294 tons (4,895,811); lime, 1,400,989 tons (1,295,699); salt, 1,771,559 tons (1,590,804); and silver, 28,361,873 fine ounces (28,431,847).

MESSAGE TO WEST INDIES

Prime Minister Diefenbaker issued the following statement on the eve of the inauguration of the West Indies Federation Tuesday, April 22:

"I am glad to accept the invitation to send a message to the Government and people of our new sister nation of the Commonwealth.

"As I write, I see the same setting in which the first Federal Parliament of Canada met nearly a century ago with hopes to be fulfilled and difficulties to be overcome. Long before that day Canadians had close relations with the people of the West Indies, and we look forward to ever-increasing ties of friendship as you too follow the path of nationhood and progress.

"My colleagues, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, will be with you in Port of Spain to take part in the ceremonies on the important occasion of the Opening of the Federal Legislature by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Margaret. They will have an opportunity of expressing personally the warm good wishes of the Government and people of Canada. I should like, too, to wish you all happiness and good fortune.