

operation for mining and refining the nickel of the Mystery-Moak Lake area, 400 miles north of Winnipeg. And on the shores of Ungava Bay in northernmost Quebec, two separate companies - one representing Krupp-Cyrus Eaton interests, the other a Rio Tinto subsidiary - have reached an advanced planning stage that may lead to the mining, the beneficiation and the marketing of immense quantities of iron ore at an early date.

These and other activities of private enterprise in the northern parts of the provinces augur well for further expansion and development in those areas. Yet more spectacular than any of them is the exploratory activity just now materializing far to the north, in territories which come under federal authority. There, in the Yukon, in the District of Mackenzie and in the Arctic Islands, we are witnessing a land play of almost unbelievable proportions, an exploration surge that directly involves upwards of 100 separate companies and individual concerns. By the end of December 1958 the Federal Government had issued exploration permits covering no less than 76 million acres (roughly 120,000 sq. miles) on the territorial mainland; and more recent applications for permits embrace an almost equivalent area in the Arctic Archipelago.

The magnets exciting this amazing stampede are oil and gas. Geological structures over a major portion of the territories favour the occurrence of these two fuels; we have found there sedimentary formations similar to those that have yielded oil farther south. The Norman Wells reservoir, for example, occurs in a limestone reef of Devonian age, similar to many oil-producing reefs in the Edmonton area; and in the Arctic Islands. Ellef Ringnes possesses salt domes comparable reportedly to those of the Texas gulf-coast where oil is so abundant.

These and other indications incline such companies as Shell, Texaco and California Standard to believe that north of latitude 60° Canada may conceal tremendously large accumulations of the energy fuels, and that this area may become in the future one of the world's major producers. According to one estimate (admittedly speculative) it could hold in reserve more than 30 billion barrels of oil and 200 trillion cu. ft. of gas.

I think these several examples will show that we are on the threshold of exciting and challenging changes in our North. For one thing, it is now the definite policy of the Federal Government to stimulate the development of the region's resources, by itself creating the conditions that will render such development possible. For another, the role of our Provincial Governments has become more dynamic; on their own initiative they are extending their horizons to the remoter parts of their territories. And finally, private industry has become alerted to the possibilities of the region and seems ready to participate far more actively in the development of its available resources.