

These northern mining developments are not any flash in the pan. The continued intensity of prospecting and mining in the Territories made 1949 a banner year. The value of the industry's production increased by more than fifty per cent over that of the previous year.

The most recent mining reports from the Northwest Territories are favourable. Companies are continuing to increase production totals and more men than ever are employed. One mine in the Yellowknife field now employs 500 men and is erecting some of the finest buildings to be found in any mining camp in Canada. This particular gold mine is presently milling 420 tons of ore per day and it is expected to reach 750 tons per day before the end of next year.

Developments in the Pine Point area on the south shore of Great Slave, are most encouraging. A year or two ago there was widespread interest and dissatisfaction in the announcement that at least two large companies were planning to spend \$200,000 on a three-year period of prospecting and exploration. In the present season alone one company, I understand, is planning to spend \$200,000 to determine the most favourable structure for its mining operations in the Pine Point area.

There is no doubt that the basic long-term development of the North will depend on the continued discovery and use of its mineral wealth. Drilling programs continue to multiply and the spirit of the men active in northern mining enterprises is definitely optimistic.

In addition to metal mining, there is the matter of oil production. You are all familiar with the Fort Norman field. Permits have been issued this year covering new drilling for petroleum and natural gas in the vicinity of Fort Providence and Big Island. Should these efforts meet with success, the whole mining outlook in Canada's sub-Arctic would be rapidly transformed.

Unlike minerals and furs, it is improbable that the forest resources of the Territories will be developed on an export basis. But the presence of valuable stands in the Mackenzie District and in the Yukon is vitally important to the protection of watersheds, to the production of wood for fuel and building purposes, as well as in providing cover for wildlife.

Assistance Given by the Department

Ever since Confederation there has been a steady growth of federal government services designed to aid in the development of Canada's resources.

First, under the Department of the Interior, then under the Department of Mines and Resources, these federal services expanded until it became apparent that a new grouping of administrative duties was necessary.

In the interests of continuing efficiency, it was decided to divide up these numerous and varied functions among several departments. On January 18th of this year, the re-alignment became effective. On that day the Department of Resources and Development officially came into existence along with the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

The new Department of Resources and Development has retained administrative responsibilities in federal forestry matters, water resources, the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, wildlife conservation, the national parks, the National Museum of Canada and special projects such as the Snare River power development.

In addition there has been transferred to Resources and Development the Canadian Government Travel Bureau and supervision of the Trans-Canada Highway Project...