

tute of Oceanography in Nova Scotia, with research ships capable of navigating them from the Arctic ice-fields to the tropics, meant Canada was entering the forefront of this international study. Other scientists probed down and accumulated knowledge of the earth itself and, across the rim of the vast Canadian Arctic, a task force known as the Polar Continental Shelf Project was studying what had hitherto been a scientific *terra incognita*.

During this period, government and private industry, research and development, were acquiring a momentum that was instrumental in raising the gross national product to an estimated \$77 billion.

Oil, metals and minerals kept the headlines throughout the Sixties. Big gains were made in the forestry, fishery and wheat industries.

The search for oil continued unabated in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Yukon. Its impetus extended into the Pacific Ocean, across the Gulf of St. Lawrence and as far into the Atlantic as Sable Island and the Grand Banks. Finally, it carried as far as the desolate Arctic islands, where, as the decade closed, and spurred by nearby successes in northern Alaska, it continues to lure explorers and speculators.

The story of metals in the Sixties began with the search for such space-age elements as columbium, cobalt and cesium. Then, with the decade not yet half over. Timmins, Ontario, became the focal point of a massive copper-zinc-silver discovery. Other important developments occurred in the East and in the West. A railway was built to Pine Point, NWT, to carry out the base metals found there in abundance and, near Edmonton, the employment of a new technique permitted production of the first nickel blanks made in Canada for the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa.

The big Saskatchewan mineral story involved the discovery and extraction of potash. Special railway hopper cars and loading facilities were built to move large amounts of this valuable fertilizer to Vancouver for shipment abroad. Alberta and British Columbia discovered a ready market for their sub-surface soft coal and preliminary operations began for sending large shipments to the Orient, where its derivative, a high-grade metallurgical coke, is an important industrial fuel. Asbestos became a part of Newfoundland's awakening economy, and the advent of color television spurred the search for the "rare earths" needed in the manufacture of receiving sets.

Water pollution became one of the gravest problems in North America and, near the end of the decade, the first efforts were made to clean up Canada's lakes and rivers.

ENGINEERING PROJECTS

During the 1960s, great Canadian dams – Peace River, Manicouagan, South Saskatchewan, Mactaquac, Churchill Falls – were built, which blocked the channels of mighty rivers, created vast lakes rivalling those of nature and changed whole landscapes. Before these projects, which added millions of kilowatts to the nation's power reserves, the wilderness frontier retreated step by step.

The early part of the decade saw the opening of the Trans-Canada Highway and many new airports (some of them international), and broad new expressways were constructed linking the larger population centers. The big cities rose ever higher; Montreal built a modern *métro*; everywhere construction materials in general were being used in unprecedented quantities.

SECONDARY INDUSTRY

During the Sixties, Canada developed from a storehouse of raw materials into a supplier of finished and manufactured items of all sorts. The steel industry boomed, reaching peak capacity with orders from all parts of the world. In the aerospace industry, which underwent sophisticated expansion, products ranged from a tilt-wing cargo plane to a water-bomber aircraft to spacecraft parts (the legs of *Apollo XI*, the spacecraft of the first men to land on the moon, were made in Canada), small hovercraft, *Concorde* simulators and complex navigational systems. Canadian companies led the field in the design and manufacture of electronic switching for telephones, computers and microsystems. The Canadian automobile industry made production and export history. The first aluminum houses were built. Heavy engineering items and machinery from Canadian factories were sold in scores of countries. During these years, significant strides were made in the establishment of secondary industries across the Prairies and in the Maritimes.

PEOPLE

Canadians passed the 20-million mark during the Sixties, and celebrated their nation's centennial with a gusto that surprised everyone – especially themselves. A steady influx of new citizens from many countries continued to alter the character of the country. Many Canadians moved restlessly from city to city and province to province.

Social services increased and living standards (which, during this decade were compared favorably with those of any other country) received practical study which resulted in such innovations as the Canada Pension Plan and the medicare programs established by the provinces.