

area. Private enterprise must assume part of the task of promoting the prosperity, and well-being of our native peoples.

### Role of Private Enterprise

You may ask what part private enterprise has played hitherto in the development of the Canadian North. For many years now private industry has been operating in the under-developed parts of the provinces and in the territories. It was under private initiative, for example, that gold mining sprang up in the Yukon in the late 1890's, and oil commenced to flow at Norman Wells, in the Machenzie Valley, in 1920. Yellowknife, Flin Flon and Timmins, are old-established mining centres, all lying outside the perimeter of urbanized Canada. These are but a few instances, selected at random, of the attraction our northern resources have held for industry, and of the communities these industries have sponsored. One could cite many more.

In this context, it is fair to point out that a substantial proportion of the development now taking place in the North is directly attributable to private enterprise. While governments of the past have been deeply preoccupied in consolidating and developing the more settled parts of our country, private enterprise has kept one eye fixed on our northlands. Individual prospectors and numerous companies have probed the wilderness, gradually extending our knowledge of its remoter areas and pushing back the frontiers of settlement. They have staked out and examined many attractive properties, and have brought some of their wealth into production. Thus, past development of our northern resources has made a significant and growing contribution to our national wealth. Nevertheless, that development remains still small, and our vast northern area contains an infinitely greater potential than current production figures would indicate.

Fortunately, during the last few years private capital has shown increased interest in our northern resources, and some of the world's largest companies have actively participated in their development. Alcan accomplished one of the outstanding engineering feats of our time, for example, when it brought its Kitimat plant into production; it withdrew headwater lakes from the upper Fraser basin and diverted them through lofty coastal mountains to enable aluminum to be manufactured on the Pacific coast, at tidewater. Already it is generating a million horsepower of energy, and possesses the potential for a million more. In British Columbia's interior trench, a Swedish multi-millionaire and corporate interests have evolved a grandiose plan for a huge industrial empire. Their project is still at an exploratory stage; but if it materializes it will create the largest man-made lake in the world, will generate twice as much power as Niagara, and will establish a number of industries utilizing timber and mineral resources. In Manitoba, late in 1956, International Nickel began a \$175 million