

is, in fact, some 700 miles north of Toronto. But it is a bit startling for a Torontonians to realize that Aklavik is another 1,000 miles north of Edmonton.

I do not suppose that this tremendous Northwest will be developed overnight or even in the very near future. But if it contains the oil and the gas and the minerals - not to mention the timber limits - that many people believe it does, developed it will be sooner or later. And obviously as it is developed, Edmonton will share in the benefits.

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I propose to talk first of all about some of the questions about the future which Canadians have been wondering about lately; secondly, to discuss the ways in which the Royal Commission is planning to examine these questions; and lastly, if you will allow me, to indicate the kind of help which the Commission hopes to receive from provincial and municipal authorities.

In the ten years since the war the population of Canada has increased to 15,600,000 people or by 29 per cent (including 344,000 Newfoundlanders who became Canadians in 1949); the working force has gone up by 22½ per cent, and gross national product -- that somewhat mysterious measure of our total physical output which economists and Government officials are always talking about but which most of us do not understand too well -- has increased by about 32 per cent in constant dollars.

During the same ten-year period we have seen the tremendous oil and gas development in Alberta and, to a lesser extent, in the other prairie provinces as well; great changes and developments in the forest and metal industries of British Columbia; remarkable increases in industrial development of all kinds, especially in Central Canada; the production of iron ore in Labrador and in Ontario; a very large expansion in hydro-electric generating capacity in all parts of the country; the discovery of uranium and other base metals, and so on.

It has been a tremendous ten years, and we still seem to be going strong. Clearly these developments will ensure a brighter economic future for Canada and Canadians than any of us, twenty years ago, even dreamed of.

But having said this -- and despite the fact that in most parts of Canada the boom is still booming -- this may be an appropriate time for us to take a good look into the future. Or better still -- if we have doubts about the ancient and entertaining, if not entirely scientific, profession of crystal ball gazing -- for us to do some good, hard thinking about the direction in which the Canadian economy seems to be pointing, and about some of the problems we may expect to be faced with over the next 5, 10, 15 or even 25 years.

Quite obviously in this present period of revolutionary technological change we cannot expect to develop blueprints which will show with any certainty