

A considerable number of the members of the Canadian army's special force were recruited in Alberta, and trained at Wainwright, not far from Bruce. That portion of the Special Force now serving in Korea is led by Lieut.-Colonel Stone, a former Commander of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. It is also an interesting fact that many of our prairie boys are serving with the Canadian Navy.

While Alberta has a population of less than a million people it produces a very large percentage of what might be called the new wealth of Canada. There are over 200 coal mines operating in Alberta with an annual production of approximately 9 million tons, or about half of the total Canadian coal production. Incidentally, while travelling about fifty miles south of Edson in the Brazeau branch I was amazed to be shown a seam of coal which ran 300 feet deep. I had never imagined that such a large seam of coal would exist in the world, but apparently this huge pocket was created at the time of the great upheaval which formed the Rocky Mountains. It is several hundred yards long, about 100 yards wide, and over 300 feet thick. The rock which had completely covered this coal seam had been blown away from the top and face of it, and huge power shovels were loading the coal on to trucks, for haulage to the railroads. I understand that there are many other large coal seams to be found in Alberta and in parts of British Columbia, particularly along the Peace River and Hudson Hope, and up around Finlay Forks. It is officially estimated that there are 48,000 million tons of mineable coal in the province. This represents more than half of all Canada's coal reserves.

At the present time Alberta has over twenty natural gas fields, and there are about forty other places in the province where gas has been discovered. Recent work carried out by Doctor G. S. Hume and other officials of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, indicates that the total proven and probable natural gas reserves in Alberta are close to 7 trillion cubic feet.

I suppose everyone is interested in oil. I notice that the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) has mentioned the discovery of oil in Manitoba. Well, in Alberta we would hardly bother with a well that did not produce more than seventy barrels a day, so I am going to tell you a little about our oil wells in Alberta.

In the last few years my province has become the Texas of Canada. As of January 1, 1951, there were approximately 2,000 wells producing crude oil in commercial quantities in Alberta. Their actual production is 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and it is estimated

that the known oil reserves in the province are at least one and a half billion barrels. This figure does not include the Athabaska tar sands, about which I shall also have something to say.

The potential production in the province is throttled down to less than one-half of its capacity because of the lack of refining facilities. For instance, in the Golden Spike field adjoining Edmonton there is one well capable of producing 12,000 barrels in a single day. Two years ago a well in the Leduc field known as "Atlantic No. 3" blew wild and produced as much as 14,000 barrels in a day, and at present the Golden Spike field is shut down.

Hon. Mr. Howden: You can buy gas much cheaper there, I suppose?

Hon. Mr. Stambaugh: It is a little cheaper than it is here in Ontario, but not nearly as cheap as we should like to have it. A considerable portion of the price we pay for gas in Alberta is made up of the tax levied by the provincial government. The Schoepp Well, to which I have referred, has a pay thickness of 600 feet. Oil production in Alberta in 1950 totalled nearly 28 million barrels, and last week 22 new wells were brought into production. The producing depths in the oil fields range from about 3,000 feet at Redwater to over 9,000 feet in the Turner Valley.

By means of the newly-built pipeline from Edmonton to the head of the lakes, when navigation opens tankers will carry oil to Sarnia. In this way it will easily be possible for Alberta oil production to keep Sarnia refineries operating at capacity. I might say that at the present time, besides having three refineries at Edmonton and one at Calgary, Alberta is keeping Winnipeg and Regina refineries supplied with crude oil as well.

Enormous as these Alberta oil resources are, there is an even greater source in the fabulous oil sands of the McMurray region. It is estimated that this area covers about 5,000 square miles. The visible field extends from McMurray 80 miles north along the Athabaska river to a distance of 30 miles on each side of the river. S. M. Blair, a petroleum expert, has estimated in a recent report that these tar sands contain over 200 billion barrels of petroleum. These sands represent the greatest single known deposit of petroleum. In fact, the deposit is far greater than the total of all other known reserves in the world.

The federal government has spent several million dollars in experimenting on a practical method of extracting this oil from the sands. The experiments were carried on chiefly by the National Research Council and