

**A fine catch of northern pike exhibited by Van Bliss of Lac la Ronge.**

(Saskatchewan Government Photo by Alan Hill)

its automobile licence plates carry the words "Wheat Province". Yet less than one-third of the total area of this vast province (which is almost as big as Texas) consists of wheat-producing cultivated land. Wheat is grown on the prairie land in the southern part. North from the prairies lies the park lands or tree belt. Farther north is the commercial forest area and finally, covering the top half of the province right to the North-West Territories, is the exciting adventureland of the Pre-Cambrian Shield.

It is this commercial forest belt and Pre-Cambrian Shield that is providing all the current excitement for anglers. This is the "Last Frontier" that is now being opened up by northern road-building programs. The trek northward didn't really start until 1947. That was the year the Government of Saskatchewan completed a 108-mile gravel highway through the muskeg and commercial forest area to Lac la Ronge. The road wasn't built primarily for the sportsmen, but it was the angler (more specifically, the *American* angler) who found it first. Until 1947, there was only a trail to la Ronge that took several days to cover; now it could be covered in a few hours. The boys were now back from the wars and looking for new areas to fish, and they quickly took advantage of the opportunity to travel to la Ronge which this new road presented.

Almost overnight, la Ronge became a busy resort community catering to the sports fisherman. Camp operators built cabins and put their earnings into a good string of boats and motors to provide the best in facilities for their visitors.

Ten years ago, Lac la Ronge was very much the end of the road, although it is scarcely more than half-way in the Province. But now roads are fanning out in all directions across Saskatchewan's north-land. La Ronge is still probably the best-known lake and attracts the most sports-



men. But as access roads have been constructed, other lakes such as Lac la Plonge, Dore Lake, Keeley Lake, Canoe Lake, Egg Lake, Montreal Lake and others have come into prominence.

An excellent trout lake, la Ronge has also become famous for its battling northern pike. In the cold waters of this lake, the pike become almost vicious and gives an angler a hectic tussle before being boated. And for the devotees of the walleye, there's also excellent fishing for this species. But many an American angler who has come for lake trout or walleye has stayed to tussle with the fierce pike to his heart's content.

But despite the coldness of the water in la Ronge and other nearby lakes, the prince of the North—the fabulous Arctic grayling—still hasn't taken to them. To enjoy the acrobatic antics of this prize fish, fly-casting enthusiasts have to climb into planes for a trip farther north. The grayling likes the fast, cold clear waters—almost rapids. As yet he cannot be found in waters that can be reached by car.

But that day may be coming. One of the biggest of all northern road-building projects is now underway—a 500-mile slash through the muskeg and lakes and trees of the Pre-Cambrian Shield which will extend from la Ronge to Uranium City on the mighty Lake Athabaska. This