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NORTH SHORE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE: GATEWAY TO THE INTERIOR

Along the north shore of the St. Lawrence, from the mouth of the Saguenay River to Blanc Sablon at the western entrance to the straits of Belle Isle, lies an area commonly known as the "North Shore."

The Bank of Nova Scotia *Monthly Review* points out that for many years this region remained dependent on a few industries and its growth was slow and limited. The fur-trading posts came first, then small fishing communities scattered along the river, and at the turn of the century a start was made on utilizing the forest resources. After the pulp mill was established at Clarke City in 1908 and the newsprint mill at Baie Comeau in 1937, the forest industry, along with fishing, became the mainstay of the economy. But important as the forest industry is to the area, it does not support a large population, particularly as much of the pulpwood is shipped to other centres and the demand for seasonal labour is met to a considerable extent from communities on the south shore of the River.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

In the last ten to fifteen years, however, as much of the activity connected with the development in the interior has been channelled through it, the North Shore has been moving ahead, its population expanding and its economy becoming more diversified. Not only is it the terminus of transportation facilities to the north, but other significant develop-

ments have also been making their influence felt.

From a small fishing village of a few hundred inhabitants, Sept Iles has been transformed into a busy port, with a population now of over 10,000. With its airport and its railway link to the north, it has become a jumping-off point for exploration into the interior and promises to become an even busier port as the new mines in the Wabush Lake area come into operation in the 1960's. Another urban community is taking shape at Port Cartier to the west, which will probably absorb the small nearby village of Shelter Bay. The newsprint town of Baie Comeau has also boomed with the coming of the new major industry, aluminum, in the past few years. Nearby Hauterive has changed from a small colonization community, whose settlers supplemented income from small farms with work at the mill or in the woods, to a residential area for the workers in the aluminum smelter. The population of Baie Comeau and Hauterive, around 4,000 in 1951, had risen by 1958 to over 10,000.

Most of the recent growth has taken place in the central sector from Forestville, the supply port for the Bersimis project, to Sept Iles. To the west lies an area of pioneer farming and logging; to the east the main activity is fishing. However, in the eastern sector exploitation of the ilmenite deposits at Allard Lake, one of the largest

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