

From the mysteries of the Mackenzie basin rich resources may in time emerge. What legitimate inference may be drawn from these notes? Here, a gas well struck twenty-six years ago and only under control finally on March 18th, 1920; there bubbles of inflammable gas floating on the river, and a shore where you scratch a hale, cook your meal, cover the fire with sand and move on; or outcrops of "coal" burning since seen by Alexander Mackenzie in 1769. Consider again the asphaltic or bituminous sand in the area lying along the Athabasca river, 150 to 200 feet thick for seventy-three miles and cropping up here and there from latitude 57 degrees to beyond the Arctic circle. Oil in 1920 is already flowing at Fort Norman and the steamers on the Mackenzie River may be converted to oil while many ocean steamers are still "unregenerate".

There is all the difference between the value of a tree on the stump and its ultimate price as paper or furniture. The same difference applies to non-precious metals, notably to the Canadian specialties, nickel and asbestos. The raw material of the extensive United States exports of chrysolite asbestos products are drawn entirely from Quebec mines and all United States nickel manufactures originate in Ontario. Recently, however, asbestos manufacture has taken hold in Canada and the nickel refining plants of Sudbury, Deschenes and Port Colborne curtail the shipments of raw material for refinement in New Jersey and South Wales. The manufacture of graphite is another object lesson. In Quebec there is now an up-to-date plant turning out full lines of perfected products from graphite mines, comparable in quality to those of Ceylon. In spite of this, however, the Canadian buyer often prefers this identical graphite after shipment to and reshipment from the United States, on the principle no doubt that

graphite, like Madeira, is better for travel!

The position of Canada giving her the leading interest in the North Atlantic and North Pacific fishing areas supplies her not only with native seamen, without whom no country can long maintain a dominant merchant marine, but with food for home consumption and export growing in importance. Four hundred years of fishing by many nations have not depleted of cod the great shallow banks where the gulf stream still, as in Tudor times, generates the organisms on which fish feed, and the fleets from the indented harbours of the Maritime Provinces can still reap the harvest of the sea within twelve miles of the shore.

Though we do not see ships "stayed" on their course by masses of fish as the early explorers relate, the fish should have a better chance of surviving here than in the North Sea, which still yields plenteously in spite of the systematic fishing of centuries and the last four years of exploding mines. Yet the "no man's sea" beyond the three-mile limit in the North Atlantic is threatened by increasing squadrons of steam trawlers, just as the coastal seas of the Pacific are being swept clean of the halibut by Japanese. The deep sea banks, however, are beyond the purview of the managers of the Canadian estate.

The protection of salmon, lobster, oyster and other coast fish and of those in all fresh water rivers and lakes is a domestic matter. Exclusive of the expenditure of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec which maintain provincial fisheries' departments, the Dominion spends annually about \$900,000 on conservation, storage, transportation, inspection, breeding, biology and patrols. In spite, however, of hatcheries and regulations, the fate of the lobster causes anxiety especially since the shad has almost disappeared from the Bay of Fundy and the sockeye salmon no longer