

MONSTER MINE FOR THE YUKON

Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has welcomed the announcement by the Anvil Mining Corporation of the opening of a large lead-zinc mine in the central region of the Yukon Territory.

The mine's initial rate of production will be 370,000 tons of concentrates a year, for which a long-term sales contract has been negotiated with Japan. The company expects to invest over \$60 million in the project, which will be the largest single mining venture in the history of the Yukon.

"The extent to which the Government has been able to support the project has played a significant part in Anvil's final decision to go ahead," said Mr. Laing. A formal agreement between Anvil Mining Corporation and the Federal Government, signed on August 21, provides for an area-development road, costing \$7.5 million, from Ross River to Carmacks on the Pelly River, which will be completed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Department will also pay two-thirds of the cost of a permanent access road and bridge from the area-development road to a new townsite, and then on to the minepit and concentrator.

The Department will improve existing routes or build new routes to tidewater at either Haines or Skagway in the Alaska Panhandle, some 375 miles to the south, to facilitate shipment of the concentrates. The exact route has not yet been decided.

NEW TOWNSITE

Electric power for the mine and townsite will be supplied by the Northern Canada Power Commission at Whitehorse. Plans to develop a new townsite to provide living accommodation to Anvil Mining employees and those who will provide services and municipal government have already been drawn up.

The company has agreed to employ a specified number of residents provided they are qualified and vacancies exist. Plans are under way to provide training facilities by territorial trade-training schools and through programmes sponsored by the Department of Manpower. An opportunity exists not only for Yukon residents as a whole but especially for the Indian and Métis population to find well-paid and permanent employment.

NATO AIR DIVISION MOVES

Operation of the air-base at Lahr, Germany, will be taken over from France by Canada's Air Division on September 7. Official ceremonies to mark the handover of the airfield and nearby headquarters of Menard Barracks are scheduled for October 6, when the Royal Canadian Air Force begins operating the Lahr complex as a Canadian NATO base. Accommodation at Lahr will be taken over from Germany, the host country.

Headquarters and units formerly stationed at Metz and Marville in France have been working at Lahr with the French Air Force since March 31, when

it became necessary for NATO units to leave France. During this time families of the Air Division have been moving into the Lahr area as permanent married quarters were made available.

With an eventual RCAF strength of about 1,800 at Lahr, an estimated 1,450 families, totalling 4,500 dependents, will require accommodation. Almost 1,100 families will occupy married quarters vacated by the French, with the remainder renting homes from the Germans. The proportion of married personnel occupying government-supplied quarters at Lahr will eventually be the highest at any major base.

Stationed at Lahr is the headquarters of the Air Division, No. 1 Fighter Wing and air movements and communications units. Completing the Division is 3 Fighter Wing at Zweibrücken, Germany, 70 miles away, and 4 Fighter Wing at Baden-Solingen, Germany, 35 miles away.

DOMESTIC AID PROGRAMME

National Health and Welfare Minister MacEachen reported recently that agreements with all ten provinces had been signed to enable the Federal Government to increase substantially its contributions to provincial welfare programmes under the Canada Assistance Plan. These agreements are retroactive to April 1, 1966.

The Canada Assistance Plan, which was developed in co-operation with the provinces, provides additional money for the integration, expansion and improvement of provincial public-assistance programmes in a framework within which the Federal Government, provincial governments, municipalities and voluntary agencies can co-operate more effectively.

Mr. MacEachen pointed out that, under the Plan, the Federal Government could not only increase the help it had been providing to the provinces for the needy aged, blind, disabled and unemployed but also help with the costs of assistance to needy mothers and their families, and children in the care of child welfare authorities. The Minister noted that the CAP had enabled most provinces to make substantial progress towards replacing separate programmes for needy people by a single, comprehensive scheme designed to meet need more adequately.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Plan also provides new federal assistance for the costs of health care to needy persons and for expanding and improving welfare services and administration. Health care may include, at the option of the province, any or all of medical, surgical, obstetrical, optical, dental and nursing services, drugs, dressings, prosthetic appliances, dentures and eyeglasses. In each case, half the cost is borne by the Federal Government. Provinces that have substantially improved the benefits or administration of their health care programmes for needy persons since April 1, 1966, include Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan.