

Biggest-ever deal for EDC

The Export Development Corporation (EDC), in partnership with a bank consortium led by the Toronto Dominion Bank, is about to arrange its largest-ever financing package, to support Canadian Bechtel Ltd.'s \$626-million contract with Entreprise Nationale Sonatrack, of Algeria, for the construction of a natural gas processing plant.

Canadian Bechtel was successful in obtaining the contract for the design, engineering, procurement, project management, construction and commissioning of a gas-gathering system, treatment plant and gas reinjection system at Rhourde Nouss, about 750 miles southeast of Algiers. The project is expected to provide sales of an estimated \$417 million in Canadian goods and services and create or maintain some 25,000 jobs for Canadians.

EDC Chairman John A. MacDonald said that the 25,000 jobs provided over the next 42 months would include 300 Canadian engineers and technical personnel in Canada and Algeria, 5,000 workers in industrial establishments across Canada, 1,000 workers in the Canadian transportation and service industries and several hundred Canadian tradesmen in Algeria. The remaining jobs are associated with related activities. The transaction involves Canadian gas processing equipment, vessels, heat exchangers, steel, compressors, pumps, valves, tools, pre-fabricated buildings and instruments.

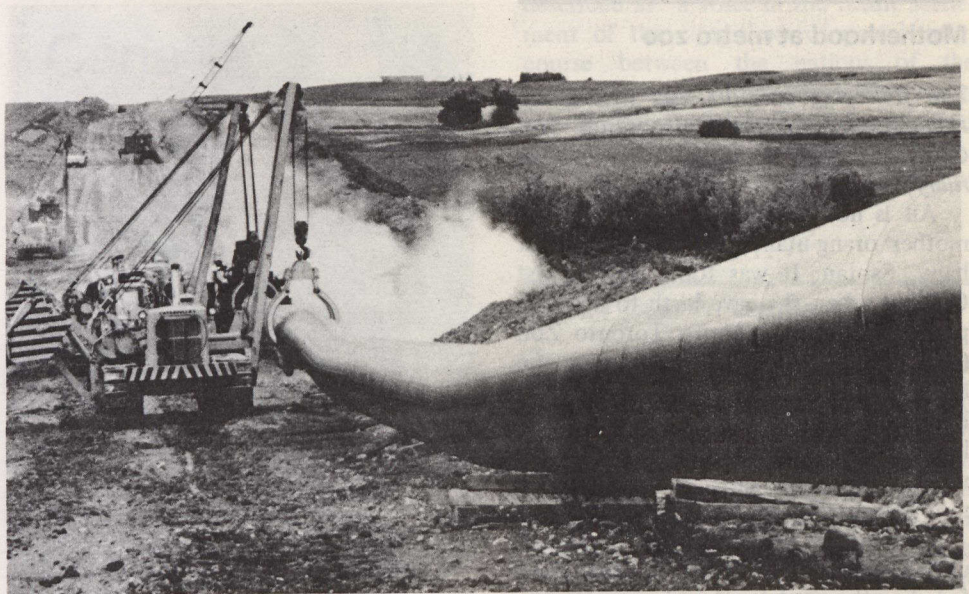
Canada's natural gas industry

Canada has led the way in the use of turbine power for compressor stations and in the automation of pipeline operations.

The first natural gas discovered in Canada was found seeping from a spring near Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 1794, but it was not until 1859 that Canada's first natural gas well was begun near Moncton, New Brunswick. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, more important discoveries were made in southwestern Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Canadian consumption of natural gas in 1946 represented but 3 per cent of the nation's total energy demand, with most consumption limited to Alberta. Vast reserves of natural gas were discovered there at the same time as the oil discovery in Leduc.

By the 1970s, natural gas was supply-



Pipelines stretch across the Canadian West to bring gas to many areas of the country.

ing 20 per cent of the nation's energy consumption and gas sales were increasing at an annual rate of 10 per cent — more than double the growth rate of total energy supply.

Alberta now produces more than 80 per cent of the nation's natural gas. It is piped to more than 1,560 communities from Montreal to Vancouver. Large quantities of gas discovered in the Mackenzie Delta, Beaufort Basin, the Arctic Islands, Hudson Bay and the East Coast off-shore areas promise sufficient gas supplies for future needs.

Construction of the major natural gas pipeline opened a new era of economic

growth for Canada. And in the process, Canada became a leader in developing new techniques for the efficient and economic transmission of huge quantities of natural gas.

Natural gas is transmitted cross-country at high pressures. The farther gas travels through a pipeline, however, the more its pressure drops, owing to the effects of friction between the flowing gas and the inside surface of the pipe.

Compressor stations, located at various strategic points along the pipeline route, raise the fallen pressure, using compressors powered by reciprocating engines or turbines.

Research on pollutants should be shared, says Canada

Blair Seaborn, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Environment Canada and head of the Canadian delegation to the sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), held recently in Nairobi, Kenya, has advocated international co-operation in research on chemical pollutants. In his statement to delegates of the 58 nations represented on this year's council, he added that no single agency could deal comprehensively with the problem, since many of the necessary studies were both costly and time consuming.

"We remain deeply convinced of the importance of UNEP and we want to do everything we can to help make it succeed," Mr. Seaborn added. He announced

that Canada would shortly issue a cheque for \$1 million as a continuing indication of support for UNEP.

Mr. Seaborn suggested that "in the long run, one of the measures that will be used to judge UNEP's effectiveness will be the extent to which environmental considerations become an integral part of the decision-making process in development planning. Such considerations have importance not only to meeting the basic human needs of mankind but also to sound resource management and continued productivity for future generations."

He concluded that the maintenance of environmental quality need not be at the expense of economic development. "We therefore see UNEP as being an international program that has much to offer to both the developed and the developing parts of the world."