

Water

Many of you know from your visits to Canada that our country abounds with lakes and rivers - with fish in places just waiting for you to catch them. But to us water means much more. We are constantly pushing back our northern frontiers, using water to turn the wheels of industry and to light the cities of Canada. Our people use now almost twice as much electric power per capita as Americans do - at about half the cost per kilowatt hour. So far we have developed close to one quarter of our total available water power - so there is considerable room for further expansion. Two outstanding examples of undeveloped power sites in Canada are the Yukon drainage basin in the Yukon Territory and Northern British Columbia and the Hamilton River system in Labrador. The power potential of these two developments alone is estimated conservatively at over 8 million horsepower. Just to give you a perspective, the Grand Coulee power plant, the world's largest, has a capacity of some 2½ million horsepower. In Canada we have a known potential of about 52,000,000 horsepower still waiting to be harnessed.

In the midst of this abundance we still are short of developed power, particularly in industrial Ontario. This is one of the reasons why Canadians deem it so necessary to go ahead with the development of the St. Lawrence, which will yield over 2½ million horsepower for use by the State of New York and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Mining

The atomic age and the arrival of the jet engine brought new challenges to Canadian mining industries. Canadians responded to these challenges by pressing ahead vigorously in their search for minerals, both new and old. And as their search yielded rich finds extensive developments followed. The most remarkable feature of this development is the broad front on which progress is being made. Not only are Canadians expanding considerably output in such traditional fields as non-ferrous metals, nickel, copper, lead and zinc, but also in newer fields, including oil, iron ore, titanium, cobalt, uranium and other rare metals.

Some of these minerals were produced in Canada in earlier days, but the new developments are taking place on such a scale as to be tantamount to the creation of entirely new industries. And further, we in Canada are processing more and more of these minerals at home. In fact, the availability of low cost power resources in many parts of our country has made it possible for us to engage in the processing of ores obtained from other countries. The outstanding example is the Canadian primary aluminum industry, which depends entirely on the import of bauxite as its major raw material. Our aluminum production is presently about half as great as yours. You might have heard of our new giant aluminum development at Kitimat in British Columbia. When fully completed this could and might bring our annual production above current U.S. output. Or to put it differently: Canadian aluminum production might reach a record annual output equivalent to the aluminum requirements for about one quarter million fighter planes. Of course, we sincerely hope that most of our aluminum output will continue to be devoted to peaceful purposes.