

our great strength is that we have in the Territories a school system which gives the same facilities to children of our three main racial groups. The North must not become a place where anyone feels that race has narrowed his horizons or set him apart. Our school system is a major influence in producing a sense of equality and mutual respect, and in preparing all our children for the changes and the opportunities they will meet as they grow older.

"The other programmes undertaken by the Territorial government to provide services and facilities to our people are reflected in the estimates. As many of you know, they involve community services, health, welfare, and a wide range of related activities. Later in the session, there will, of course be opportunities to discuss in detail any points which members of the Council wish to raise.

TERRITORIAL RESOURCES

"Resource development in the Territories is not one of the assigned responsibilities of this Council. We are, however, closely concerned with this subject, since our activities must reflect and complement the activities of private companies and of the Federal Government in bringing new resources into production. For this reason, I am sure that we all welcomed the announcement by the Governor General in the Speech from the Throne last November that the Federal Government will commission a detailed location survey for the Great Slave Lake Railway, and the announcement by the Minister of Transport in the House of Commons last month that the Government has decided to commence building, after the survey, a railroad along the co-called Western route.

"It therefore seems clear that the mineral deposits at Pine Point will come into production within the next four or five years. This, in turn, means a new town for the Territories with a population which, according to preliminary estimates, may go as high as two thousand people. Aside from the mine, a railhead on Great Slave Lake should, through improved service and lower costs, stimulate the economy of the whole Mackenzie District. This is, in short, a tremendous step forward for the Territories. It is now something over five years since I, on behalf of this Council, recommended the construction of the railway in a brief submitted to the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects. I am sure the Council will share my gratification that this project seems at last to be moving forward.

"Since our meeting in Resolute last July, two other milestones in transportation development have been passed. Last autumn, the new Great Slave Highway to Yellowknife was opened for traffic. At the other side of the Territories, the ice-breaker 'John A. Macdonald' completed successfully her maiden voyage to the Arctic. It has often been said that trans-

portation is the key to northern development, and the evidence of progress over the past few months is most encouraging.

OIL AND GAS

"Through 1960, interest in the oil and gas potential of the Territories remained strong. The long-term character of the investigations now being undertaken is perhaps not generally appreciated. This is not a one, two, or even five year phenomenon. Since major oil and gas exploration began in 1957, the companies involved have invested about \$30 million in northern exploration. Between now and 1970, present indications are that over \$300 million will be spent, and the total may go far beyond this. These estimates include expenditures in the Yukon, but it seems likely that by far the greater part of the money will be spent on investigations in the Northwest Territories. During the present winter, about eighteen exploratory wells will be drilled across the north of Canada.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

"In my opening address to the July session of the Council, I spoke about the health needs of the Territories, and particularly about the appalling incidence of infant mortality in Eskimo communities. This situation has a number of causes, of which inadequate housing is probably the most important. To help meet this problem, a new programme has been devised to provide, through the Eskimo loan fund, long-term low-interest advances to Eskimos for the construction of approved accommodation. These loans will be supplemented by modest subsidies and should, over the next few years, enable many Eskimos to improve their housing standards. I should perhaps make it clear that this is not primarily a relief programme; it is designed to enable Eskimos to buy houses at prices which they can afford to pay. Since the buyers cannot afford to pay very much, the houses will not be very elaborate, but they will be a tremendous improvement on the accommodation now being used.

NWT BROADCASTING

"In my opening address at Resolute, I spoke also on the plans of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for new stations at Inuvik and Frobisher Bay, and for a shortwave service which would cover the whole of the Territories. The station at Inuvik went on the air as scheduled on Grey Cup Day last November, and I understand that the coverage is even better than was first expected. The new shortwave service is also in operation, and is providing for the first time Canadian broadcasts to large areas of the Territories which are beyond the range of the standard-band stations.

"It was hoped that the station at Frobisher Bay would also be on the air by the end of the year. This target proved over-optimistic, but