

miles of highway are under construction. In Newfoundland alone, there are more than 300 miles of highway which will be built under this programme at a cost of \$4 million, of which \$2 million will be contributed by the Government of Canada. This will provide 8000 man-months of employment.

"Railroads are being built too. The turning of the sod for the Great Slave Lake Railway, at Roma in northern Alberta, was a most historic day. This railway will be the first steel to cross into the Northwest Territories. Heading north from Grimshaw, it will bring into production the great lead-zinc deposits at Pine Point on Great Slave Lake. By bringing Pine Point into production the railway will increase, even at its early stages, Canada's Gross National Product by some \$25 million. It will open up six million acres of arable land adjacent to the route, and about 13 million acres of untapped forest resources. The great Peace River country could become the bread-basket of the North, as did the trackless prairies for the world in the latter part of the last century....

"There is now a policy also to accelerate the building of resource roads within the Territories. The construction and costs of area-development roads to foster growth in undeveloped regions where there is favourable resource potential is a responsibility of the Federal Government. Where two or more mines have reached the development stage in promising areas, mine-development roads may be built by the Federal Government.

"To facilitate access to resources property, the Federal Government may contribute up to two thirds of the costs of mine-access roads. Where assistance is given for low standard, seasonal or temporary "tote trails" to give a company access to its property, road grants to a territory may be increased by the Federal Government by \$50,000. There is an 85 percent federal grant for maintenance costs of area and mine-development roads. In all, some 2200 miles of access roads are under construction in the Territories.

"...On a current basis our annual expenditure for road and bridge construction is \$6 million more than in 1957, while the total annual expenditure on roads averages more than \$8 million. This has resulted in an increased 900 miles of roads in use.

"In terms of specific accomplishments, it was a proud day for all Canada when, in January 1961, the first passenger bus reached Yellowknife from Edmonton. Now a new road, part of this same Mackenzie Highway System, is pushing on 190 miles north of Yellowknife towards areas having mineral-development potential around McKay Lake.

DEVELOPMENT

"...The year 1962 will be the busiest yet for mining in the North and for the search for oil. Already the first 'wildcat' on the Arctic islands has been drilled at Winter Harbour, just 800 miles from the North Pole. Four wells will be drilled on the northern mainland. Some of the drilling will even take place in summer. Because of the muskeg this is a more expensive operation. The desire to press on regardless underlines the prevailing spirit of confidence.

"Although the first wildcat on Melville Island did not find oil, it was a marvelous pioneering effort. Drilling penetrated to a depth of 12,500 feet, and,

during the coming summer, the Jacobsen-McGill Arctic expedition will make studies of permafrost and other geological data which this test hole will provide.

TOURISM

"The mention of prospecting and recent public discussions turns our thoughts to the Yukon and the reminiscences about the famous Klondike Gold Rush. A new rush is taking place in the North. The Trail of '98 is one of the great Canadian historic epics. During recent years, due to the upsurge of interest in the North, concern with this period of history, which did so much to open up the Canadian west, has been revived. Already the influx of tourists has boosted this industry to second place in the northern economy. In 1959, in response to this growing interest, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada designated Dawson City a 'historical complex' of national importance. The Board also recommended that my Department acquire and preserve the old Auditorium Theatre. This was done, and the auditorium known as the Palace Grand has been restored. Built in 1899, the Palace Grand was the first legitimate theatre north of Vancouver. It was the largest building in Dawson. It was the only building of its type, and one of a very few of any kind to have survived, fire, flood and storm through the years and remained virtually intact and largely unaltered in structure.

"While frontier towns in North America were nearly always overburdened with dance halls and saloons, and most of them could boast one such establishment where there were travelling shows, it was the rare settlement that was favoured with a theatre where plays, opera, and concerts could be presented. These the Palace Grand consistently offered.

"In fact, the Palace Grand was a kind of community centre. Here were held social and political gatherings, patriotic and religious ceremonies. Many theatrical greats including Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., began their career at the Palace Grand.

KLONDIKE FESTIVAL

"Tom Patterson of Stratford Shakesperian fame has conceived the idea of the Klondike Festival. On Dominion Day, Sunday, July 1, at a ceremony in the Palace Grand Auditorium in Dawson City, the theatre will be formally dedicated as a historic site. This will also mark the beginning of the annual Klondike Festival, which, during a period of six weeks, will bring 40,000 visitors north to recapture the romance of the Trail of '98. In addition to top-level theatrical performance, tourists will pan for gold, dance to frontier bands, enjoy the magnificent scenery and generally rough it (though not too strenuously) as did the pioneers. The Yukoners themselves have seized the initiative in promoting the Festival and have organized a Festival Foundation to handle all the details. The Festival will become the nucleus of a tourist boom that will revitalize the economy of the North....

EDUCATION

"If the people are to benefit from the changes taking place, they must be equipped to participate in them. Above all else, this means education. In Southern Canada it is taken for granted that every child

(Continued on P. 6)