

**PETROLEUM LEADING MINERAL:** Canadian crude oil production in 1953 totalled 80,904,402 barrels, valued at \$197,294,232, an increase of 19,667,080 barrels over 1952. Average daily output was 221,656 barrels compared with 167,773 barrels in 1952 and potential output was estimated at 345,000 barrels a day, an increase of about 63,000 barrels a day over 1952.

Alberta accounted for 95 per cent of the production, and Saskatchewan, which doubled its 1952 production, 3.5 per cent. The remainder came from Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Ontario, and New Brunswick. In value of production crude petroleum became Canada's leading mineral replacing gold which had held this position for over 20 years.

During 1953 the 718-mile Trans Mountain pipe line from Edmonton to Vancouver was completed and the Interprovincial pipe line from Edmonton to Superior, Wisconsin, was extended 643 miles to Sarnia, Ontario, making the 1,765-mile line the world's longest oil pipe line.

Canadian refinery capacity was increased 70,250 barrels to 528,650 barrels a day, double that of 1947.

**WESTERN CANADA**

Although most of western Canada's drilling continued to be carried out in Alberta, there were marked increases in exploratory and development activity in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In all, 2,222 wells were drilled in western Canada in 1953 resulting in 1,300 oil wells, 90 gas wells, and 832 dry holes. There were 1,418 completions in Alberta, 669 in Saskatchewan, 89 in Manitoba, 36 in British Columbia, and 10 in Northwest Territories. The number of active drilling rigs in western Canada reached a high of 194 compared with a peak of 253 in 1952.

The Canadian Petroleum Association estimated proven reserves of crude oil in Canada at the end of 1953 to be 1,845,422,000 barrels, an increase of 165,913,000 barrels over 1952. Of these reserves, 1,624,496,000 barrels were in Alberta and 182,159,000 barrels were in Saskatchewan.

An estimated \$390,000,000 was spent in 1953 on the development of Alberta's petroleum resources and in providing pipe line transportation facilities, a 25 per cent increase over 1952. Drilling activity resulted in 884 new oil wells, 53 new gas wells, and 481 abandonments. At the end of the year there were 122 drilling rigs in use. By December 1953, Alberta had 4,504 crude oil wells capable of being operated, 4,000 of which were in production.

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Weekly earnings in manufacturing at the beginning of July averaged \$57.39, up from \$56.60 a month earlier, according to advance figures. The work-week averaged 40.5 hours as compared with 39.8, and hourly earnings averaged 141.7 cents as compared with 142.2.

**FORCES IN KOREA:** As a result of consultations between the Commonwealth Governments which have forces in Korea and the United Nations Command, it has been decided to reduce the Commonwealth contribution to the United Nations forces in the Korean theatre parallel with and in proportion to the reductions being made in United States forces there, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Ralph O. Campney, announced on September 13.

So far as Canada is concerned, he said, it has been agreed that the Canadian forces will be reduced by approximately two-thirds and that the remaining Canadian element in the United Nations forces in Korea will consist of one infantry battalion, one field ambulance, and the necessary elements for their administrative support.

Canadian troops being returned to Canada will be brought back as rapidly as suitable hand-over and shipping arrangements can be made. It is hoped that the greater part will be at home or en route by the end of the year.

**ORDER OF RETURN**

The anticipated order of return to Canada of the major units, together with their locations, pending completion of new permanent home stations now under construction, is as follows: the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, will join its first battalion at Aldershot, Nova Scotia; the 3rd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, is to be located at Debert, Nova Scotia; the 4th Battalion, The Canadian Guards will occupy Camp Ipperwash, Ontario. The Brigade Headquarters and supporting units will also be included in those returning to Canada.

Remaining in Korea for the present as part of the reduced Commonwealth forces will be the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, one field ambulance, and the necessary elements for their administrative support.

In line with the general reduction of United Nations' forces in Korea, one of the three Canadian destroyers serving in Korean waters, H.M.C.S. "Cayuga", will be withdrawn shortly from Korean patrol duties and will not be replaced. She has been on station in the Far East since June last. The destroyers "Iroquois" and "Huron" will continue on duty with the United Nations forces for the present.

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Labour income reached \$5,767,000,000 in the first 6 months this year, \$93,000,000 or about 2% more than in the first half of 1952. About 1% fewer had jobs, but per capita weekly earnings were up 2.5%.

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Population of Canada increased by 201,000 in the first 6 months this year, 29,000 or 17% more than in the first half of 1953. The July 1 total of 15,236,000 represented a gain of 1,227,000 since the 1951 Census.