

I shall move now to the next query on our questionnaire.

What does Canada's Canada's economic future look like?

As you probably know, Canada already has the largest hydro electric power production per capita in the world. On a per capita basis our present water power development is five times that of the United States...and so is our potential. One of our war-time installations, the 1,400,000 horsepower Shipshaw development in central Quebec, is presently the world's largest producer of power exceeding even your own Grand Coulee. Other projects now under way or planned will increase our installed capacity by more than 20%, not to mention any power which may be developed on the St. Lawrence. I firmly believe that the industrial and strategic needs of our continent will in due course overcome existing obstacles to the St. Lawrence Seaway. When this happens, I believe this Great Lakes basin on the Canadian as well as the American side will become an industrial area the like of which the world has never seen. Meanwhile the need for power is such that the Province of Ontario and the State of New York have been negotiating for the immediate development of some of the Seaway's power potentialities. The Canadian share of the project would be more than 1,000,000 h.p.

Our most spectacular fuel development, however, relates to oil. Since the first Leduc well, in northern Alberta, blew in a little over a year ago it has become clear that a major new oil field has been discovered. One company alone is spending \$80 million in exploration and development in the Alberta area. Geologists believe that some of the continent's richest oil resources lie in this area. Over and above all this mention might also be made of that fabulous unknown in the far north of Alberta, the Athabaska tar sands. The United States Bureau of Mines has estimated that these sands contain considerably more oil than the rest of the world's proven oil reserves combined, or roughly 250 billion barrels. Work on methods of separation is being vigorously pursued by private and governmental agencies.

Canada has been lavishly endowed with mineral resources. It is already the world's largest producer of nickel, platinum and asbestos, and a leading producer of gold, copper, zinc, silver and lead. Expansion in the aluminum industry increased its capacity by more than ten times since 1937 to some 500,000 tons a year at the present time. Canada is also one of the world's two major producers of vital uranium ore. Most of this ore comes from the Great Bear Lake district of the Northwest Territories, but recently new discoveries of uranium have been made in central Manitoba.

Although Canada is still a net importer of iron ore, our Steep Rock mine is rapidly becoming a major producer of particularly high grade ore, averaging about 60% purity. Still more important, it is now established that there is a very large and rich field of iron ore on the Quebec-Labrador boundary, and preliminary work has already begun on a railway from the Gulf of St. Lawrence into this field. When its full potentialities are known, the Quebec-Labrador deposits may well compare with the Mesabi range itself. Although exhaustion or even serious impairment of the Mesabi reserves is not yet in sight, the tremendous drain of the last decade and the defence requirements of this continent suggest the urgent need for supplementing Mesabi output with ore from other convenient sources. The Quebec-Labrador deposits and the St. Lawrence Waterway will, I believe, supply part of the answer.

The world has been running through its forest resources at an extravagant rate and has seriously depleted its supplies of accessible timber. Canada is fortunate in having over 800,000 square miles of productive forest, an area twenty times the size of Ohio. In British Columbia we have one of the few readily accessible virgin timber areas remaining on this continent.