

eyes of the western world over the past five or six years have been focussed on British Columbia with its great expansion and development.

As a private member of the former Coalition Government of British Columbia I am proud to say that in 1951 that Government announced a billion dollar investment program in the province. It included important projects that I feel are worthy to be brought to the attention of this chamber, because I think, with all due respect to honourable members, that many of them do not realize the tremendous development which is taking place in British Columbia, that jewel in the crown of Canadian provinces.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. Hodges: Among the projects which were launched, started or initiated at that time was the Westcoast Transmission Company's \$700 million natural gas pipeline, destined to be laid from the Peace River district to the United States border south of Vancouver. Unfortunately, for causes which have nothing to do with British Columbia but which originated on the other side of the international border—you will remember there was a great deal of opposition there—it was announced that the construction of that pipeline would not be started till 1955. The British Columbia section of that pipeline alone is estimated to cost \$130 million.

Of course, the most spectacular development of all is one to which I have already alluded, the one undertaken by the Aluminum Company of Canada at Kitimat. I had the good fortune to be flown in to that development in the early stages of its construction and it was only then I realized what was being done, that this great industry, this immense undertaking, was being built in the middle of the wilderness, in virgin forest, five hundred miles from the nearest settlement.

Those of you who have not visited British Columbia's hinterland cannot envision the magnitude of the task involved in setting up what is to be a \$600 million development by the time it is completed. The project comprises a power development, a smelter, and a townsite at Kitimat. The Aluminum Company has already spent \$275 million on this development. The first unit of the smelter was completed at Kitimat in 1954 and the first ingot was poured in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh. The first shipment was made to the United States in September of that year. The present plant is capable of producing 91,500 tons of aluminum a year, but already plans are under way for so

extending the present facilities as to increase the yearly output by 60,000 tons and give employment to an additional 1,000 people. The operations at Kitimat at this stage have provided jobs for thousands of workers, skilled and unskilled. The new townsite is being built in the wilderness, and in order that it may be laid out along modern lines, town-planning experts from all over Canada have been retained. It is expected that within a few years the development will give employment to at least 10,000 people, and that the townsite at Kitimat will ultimately provide habitation for 50,000 to 60,000 people.

This vast undertaking, I must point out to honourable senators who do not know the district, will lead to a very great development of the lands along the Canadian National Railway line in that part of Canada from Alberta to the Kitimat area, and this also will be of tremendous advantage.

Another important ramification of the Alcan project is the proposed \$65 million Kitimat Pulp and Paper mill, which will be jointly owned by the Aluminum Company of Canada and the Powell River Pulp and Paper Company.

I would like to mention a few other developments which have taken place in British Columbia in the last few years. The Pacific Great Eastern Railway has constructed a new line from Quesnel to Prince George, and an extension is being projected north from there, opening up that vast area. My colleagues from Alberta will realize what this will mean to that part of the country.

Other big developments include the Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line, involving a crude oil pipe line from Alberta oil fields, refining plants at lower mainland and refineries at Ferndale and Anacortes in the State of Washington at a cost of \$100 million. As a result of the construction of this pipe line new refineries will be constructed at Ioco (Imperial Oil Company), and Stanovan (Standard Oil Company of B.C.), and an addition at Shellburn (Shell Oil Company of Canada, Ltd.). The estimated cost of these is \$30 million.

In the mining and metallurgical field, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company has spent \$57 million in the last few years in extensions to its plants. Plans for the development of a power plant at Waneta were announced in 1951, and this undertaking was completed last year. Various other extensions of the operations of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company have also been put in hand.

I hope I shall not be accused of being too biased if I point out that most of these