

In the Yukon current production is centred on gold, silver, lead and zinc - and a little coal for local use. Almost all of the gold comes from the historic creeks of the Klondike, where it is won by colossal dredges which contrast strangely with the panning of the days of '98. The production in 1952 was valued at \$2,700,000. Silver, lead and zinc come from very rich deposits in the vicinity of Keno Hill. The 1952 output of silver was valued at \$3,300,000, lead at \$2,950,000 and zinc at \$1,900,000.

The gold mines and the pitchblende mine in the Northwest Territories and the base metal mines in the Yukon all operate concentrating mills. A refinery is operated at the Norman Wells oil field and is capable of producing all types of petroleum products used in the Territories with the exception of aviation gasoline, the alkalite for which is imported from "outside". There are as yet no smelters either in the Northwest Territories or the Yukon. Secondary manufacturing industries are limited to a soft drinks bottling plant in Yellowknife, but plans are under way for establishing a brewery at Whitehorse.

However, as I indicated earlier, the really exciting side of the picture lies not in present mineral production, important as this is, but in the bright hopes for the future. Taking first the Northwest Territories, any marked improvement in the price-cost relationship of gold would almost certainly bring several additional mines into production, and there are most interesting prospects in base metals.

To take an example, a large number of claims have been staked in a highly promising lead-zinc deposit at Pine Point on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, and while it may be several years before a decision will be reached as to whether or not a mine will be developed, the present prospects look good. If a mine does come into production at that place, it will be one of the biggest lead-zinc producers on the North American continent and will almost inevitably result in the extension of the railroad to the shores of Great Slave Lake. Whether a smelter would be constructed at Pine Point or whether concentrates would be shipped south for smelting would depend on many questions yet unresolved, one of which may be whether or not natural gas can be discovered in the area. A mine at Pine Point would produce a centre of population at least two or three times the present size of Yellowknife, and larger still if there should be a smelter. A town of this size might well stimulate the development of small secondary industries, particularly since low-cost power would be available. Furthermore, there are other interesting base metal prospects on both the north and south sides of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake. Some of these may conceivably prove to be economic even without a railhead on the Lake, but should the development of Pine Point bring such a railhead to the Lake, then the economic outlook for prospects in this area would be greatly enhanced.

Other prospects of considerable importance include nickel deposits at Ferguson Lake and at Rankin Inlet, in Keewatin District to the west of Hudson Bay.