

The Atlantic

Development Board

by MARCEL GERAUX

Around the time of Confederation, the industries of the Maritime Provinces were losing ground, and those of central Canada were beginning to boom. The economic levels in this part of the country were relatively high, but this was not long-lasting.

The absence of major industries in the Maritimes, and as they are called with the addition of Newfoundland, - the At-

lantic Provinces, has long been the source of the region's ills. Only in the last decade have steps been taken to solve these serious problems.

One of the institutions set up for this purpose is the Atlantic Development Board. In 1963 it was given \$100 million to allocate to various projects in the Atlantic Area. The aim is to build a strong foundation for new industry, in that way as-

sureing that the future will not be as dim as it is now.

First concern of the Board is for investment in what is called infrastructure — water, power, and transportation media. Ultimately the Board will help industries, improve use of resources, up-grade labour, and encourage secondary industry.

Of the \$150 million available for investment, most has been allocated. About \$35 million has been spent. (Not all of it, as the *Daily Gleaner* suggested).

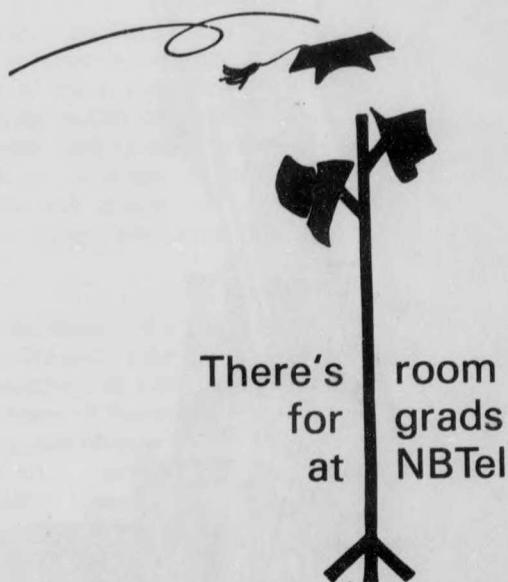
Most of the spending is going for hydroelectric power, including the Mactaquac Project fifteen miles above Fredericton.

A few weeks ago the Board announced grants of \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000 respectively to UNB and Dalhousie University for scientific equipment and buildings. This reflects the Board's interest in human as well as natural resources.

The Board is made up of three men from each of the four Atlantic Provinces except Prince Edward Island, which has two. New Brunswick's Board are Dr. Stephen Weyman, Minister of Health for New Brunswick, R.C. Eddy, of Bathurst, and Armand H. Cormier, of Moncton. At one time, Fredericton's Michael Wardell was Chairman of the Board, but he was removed by the Federal Government when the parties changed.

The Annual Report of the Board has been made public, and can be read by anyone interested.

The purpose of the Board is to build the Atlantic Area into a self-supporting region. The resources are here, but the area has become rutted. The people of this area must move out of their provincial shells and think progressively. It is all part of a single process of cultural maturing.



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