

by EDWARD HASS

What is happening in the field of Industrial Development in New Brunswick?

People wish to know what the province of New Brunswick is doing for them - - - not because they are entirely dependent on the government but because they do need guidance.

The government of New Brunswick is failing badly in the area of industrial development.

The initial problem of the people of New Brunswick and the government is their lack of knowledge about business opportunities. Neither the English nor French segments of the population have shown any evidence or exercised any entrepreneurial skills. This is mainly a result of the predominance of the province's available work force in primary industry.

Through the years, the governments of New Brunswick have allowed an atmosphere to exist that has hindered industrial development. Large companies have been allowed to control natural resources such as timber lands. There has been an almost complete lack of technology in agriculture and fishing and educational levels have

remained low. Also, a large proportion of the population has been allowed to depend on social benefits.

On the other hand, those who have the financial resources to invest have neither the faith nor the opportunity to invest in native New Brunswick companies. The larger New Brunswick firms are privately owned and closed to public investments (i.e. Irving Enterprises, Ganong Bros., etc.). The investors in New Brunswick have been putting their monies in such things as bonds, debentures and international companies rather than equity investments in Canadian companies.

These basic facts have been overlooked by the New Brunswick government's advisors in setting up industrial development programs.

The province of New Brunswick has several industrial agencies within its civil service complex. The most prominent of these agencies are the New Brunswick Department of Industry, the New Brunswick Development Board and the New Brunswick Development Corporation.

The province of New Brunswick Department of Industry is supposedly responsible for the co-ordination and the development of established industries in the province. This department does not possess the personnel nor does it have any formulated policies towards industrial development. The Department of Industry has no means of determining what industrial opportunities are feasible for local or outside entrepreneurs.

One director of this department is actually against assisting the expansion of old established firms in the province. He has also pointed out that he has found his department not only competing for the attraction of new industries with other provinces but also with another New Brunswick agency. This gives one some idea of the confusion in the province of New Brunswick's development policies.

The first essential step towards an industrial development program is a complete information center. As an example of the failure of the Department of Industry in this respect is the fact that it does not pub-

Government Hinders Industrial Development