

The Cover photograph shows the genius of architect Fuller's superbly constructed library in Ottawa. The marble statue of Queen Victoria is by Marshall Wood. see story on pages 4-5.

Canada Today



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ECOLOGY

Canada wants Arctic energy...

and ecology too



National Film Board

The petroleum industry has discovered the Canadian Arctic.

Within a few months applications are due to be made for the right to build a natural gas pipeline, and possibly one for oil as well, from the Arctic Ocean up the Mackenzie River valley into southern Canada.

What has the coming of the oilmen meant to the North? To the Arctic ecology and environment? And to its native people, the Eskimos, the Indians and the Métis?

The Canadian North is all that area of the country lying north of the 60th parallel of latitude. It includes a northern tip of Quebec, the surrounding seas, and the two northern territories still under federal government responsibility, though they have their own regional governments. These are the Yukon (of past gold fevers), an area the size of France along the westernmost edge, and the Northwest Territories, the size of India. The area on which most attention is currently focussed is the Mackenzie River valley, which winds 1,000 miles through the N.W.T. from Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean, and islands northeast of the Mackenzie's marshy delta.

Archeological sites in the Yukon in-

dicating the first humans in Canada were located in that region at least 7,000 years ago. For several thousand years prior to the white man's arrival, the Indians and Eskimos evolved and maintained successful cultures of seasonal nomadism based on hunting and fishing. The Eskimos divided into small family groups and moved with the game resources of the region. They hunted mainly in the coastal areas, but occasionally made trips south to the treeline to cut wood for sledge runners, tools and implements. The Indians lived in small bands roaming the boreal forest and sub-Arctic forest regions for game and fish.

Some groups of Indians did travel northward into the tundra during the summer and autumn to hunt caribou, occasionally going as far as the Arctic coast. Although their hunting areas were adjacent and their ways of life similar, the Indians and Eskimos remained apart. There was little cultural exchange and no intermarriage between the two races.

Explorers from Europe in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries were the first white men to contact the Indians and the Eskimos.