

diminishing prices of furs and other factors which I will not elaborate at this time. Indeed, the catastrophic deterioration of their economy is one of the real tragedies of Canada today. The government is doing everything in its power to ease the plight of those Eskimos and Indians who are faced with hardship and to raise their standard of health, education and economic position. Northern development activities are closely tied in with these efforts because they help to improve communications and to provide new methods of earning a livelihood for people who can no longer sustain themselves from their traditional pursuits of hunting, trapping and fishing. Therefore in planning government expenditures of the north we must consider not only the physical development aspect but also the possible consequence for our native population.

One hundred Indian children from the lower Mackenzie River and the northern Yukon will live in the hostel at Fort McPherson and receive their education at the school there. Some of them will come from Old Crow in the Yukon which it was also my privilege to visit. But not all the children of Old Crow will go to Fort McPherson, for a new day school is going to be built in their own village. It will be built of logs—cut by the Indians themselves and erected by them. While I was there we consulted the Indians as to the place they wanted the school to be—and it is going to be built where they want it. As the sun poured down and made it impossible to believe that I was north of the Arctic Circle, I turned the first sod.

Most of the Indians of Fort McPherson saw us off as we left for Aklavik, about fifty miles due north. Flying over the delta of the Mackenzie River is an unforgettable experience. The vast array of lakes and twisting river channels that, like a sponge, soak up the drainage of half a continent from Alberta and Saskatchewan through the entire length of the Northwest Territories, is something once seen never to be forgotten. In the midst of it is the town of Aklavik—built on a bank of silt, surrounded by water, and quite incapable of becoming the administrative centre that is needed at the northern end of the Mackenzie River. To have built anything more there would have been throwing good money after bad, so the government decided to move the administrative facilities to a completely new town—Inuvik on the east side of the delta.

Before visiting Inuvik I had a look at the Arctic Ocean at Tuktoyaktuk. There one gets some impression of what the DEW line has meant to northern Canada. It is the location of one of the DEW line stations and it is also the harbour from which supplies move east and west in the short summer season to bring all the needed commodities to the stations along the coast. As I flew over the harbour with the bright autumn sun pouring down, six large vessels to carry oil and dry cargo rode at anchor—their summer task of supplying the line completed. It is because of all this growth in the farthest north—both military and civil—that a new town had to be created near the mouth of the Mackenzie River.

Inuvik is as different from both Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk as anything could be. It has a superb location on the rising bank of land east of the Mackenzie. The area is covered with white birch and spruce that make it as attractive as any town 2,000 miles to the south—and with skill and care these trees have been preserved to break the wind and add to the amenities of this first modern Canadian town within the Arctic Circle.

Inuvik will be a novel town in many ways. None of its large buildings and few of its houses will have a chimney—for all of them will be heated from one large central plant. Out of that plant through "utilidors" running above the ground will come steam circulating at 350° temperature. The steam in its insulated lines will keep the sewer and water lines above freezing so