

The northern terminus of the pipeline near Fort St. John is a beehive of activity. A plant to remove the by-products from the gas is being built, and these by-products will be further processed in a refinery and a sulphur plant, also under construction. All told, the Westcoast line and related facilities will involve expenditures totalling some \$275 millions.

It has been calculated that the capital expenditures engendered by the construction of the 2,150-mile Trans-Canada pipeline, which got under way a year ago and is expected to be delivering western gas to Toronto and Montreal in 1958, will approximate \$1 billion. Of this, about \$370 millions will be spent on the line itself, the balance being accounted for by gathering lines, processing plants, and distribution systems. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this project. In the west, it will provide a market outlet for ever-increasing supplies of natural gas, now flared or in capped wells, and the by-products will provide the basis for further chemical development. In the east, it will make available an efficient fuel, lessening the area's dependence on imported coal - a consideration of particular importance in northern Ontario where fuel costs are perhaps the highest in Canada.

FARM AREA UNCHANGED: Canada's farm population showed a further marked drop in the period 1951 to 1956, but the total farm area was virtually unchanged, according to a Dominion Bureau of Statistics report based on the national census of 1956. The average farm was substantially larger in size in the five-year period and farm mechanization and electrification went forward at a rapid pace.

Number of persons living on farms, as defined by the Census, showed a decrease of 165,241 or 5.7 per cent from 2,911,996 in 1951 to 2,746,755 in 1956. This was a larger proportional decrease than occurred in the 10-year interval between 1941 and 1951 when the total fell 240,453 or 7.6 per cent. Numerically the decreases in the five years were largest in Saskatchewan (37,242), Quebec (27,297), and New Brunswick (20,938), although all provinces contributed towards the total decrease.

While the total number of occupied farms showed a decrease from 623,091 in 1951 to 575,015 in 1956 or 7.7 per cent, the total area in farms decreased only 0.1 per cent from 174,046,654 acres to 173,923,691 acres in 1956, with the result that the average size of farm for all Canada increased from 279.3 acres in 1951

to 302.2 acres in 1956. The highest average acres per farm was recorded in Saskatchewan (607.3), up 57 acres from the 1951 average. The average size of farm in Alberta also showed a substantial increase during the five-year period from 527.3 acres to 578.8 acres per farm. The average acreage per farm in Ontario increased only 2.2 acres to 141.4 acres per farm in 1956, while Nova Scotia reported a smaller average size of farm in the last census -- 131.7 acres compared with 135.0 in 1951.

An important factor contributing towards the larger farms has been the use of more farm machinery of various classes. This has been brought out in the increases shown for the number of machines on farms in 1956 in comparison to 1951. For example, there were 25 per cent more tractors reported on farms in 1956 than five years earlier, 36.5 per cent more grain combines, 36.5 per cent more gasoline engines, and 41.3 per cent more motor trucks. The number of gasoline engines on farms increased in all provinces except Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec. While the numbers are not large numerically, there has been a tremendous increase in the use of grain combines in the Eastern Provinces.

The number of farms reporting electric power increased by 32.3 per cent from 319,383 in 1951 to 422,604, with increases ranging from 11.6 per cent in Nova Scotia and British Columbia to 140.4 per cent in Saskatchewan.

WITH NATO FLEET: Eight warships of the Royal Canadian Navy will participate in a series of autumn exercises being conducted in the North Atlantic and adjacent waters by NATO's Allied Command Atlantic.

The participating ships will include four St. Laurent class destroyer escorts, the St. Laurent, Assiniboine, Ottawa and Saguenay, and four Tribal class destroyer escorts, the Haida, Iroquois, Micmac and Nootka. Aircraft of the RCAF Maritime Command will also participate in certain of the exercises.

Admiral Jerauld Wright, USN, Supreme Allied Command Atlantic for NATO, announced recently that the exercises are a part of the regular cycle of NATO training and will involve fleet operations, submarine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, mining and minesweeping operations, and convoy escort. They will take place during September, October and November.

Canadian warships will be assigned to the various exercises as they are required, but not all will participate in any one exercise at the same time.