

PRAIRIE GAS RESERVES ESTIMATE: Canada's proven and probable reserves of natural gas in the Prairie Provinces have increased 2.1 trillion cubic feet in a year and a half mainly as a result of oil drilling operations in Alberta. Reserves at June 30, 1950, are estimated at 7,000 billion cubic feet in place at atmospheric pressure and temperature or 6,400 billion cubic feet at 100 pounds abandonment pressure.

The increase in proven, probable and potential reserves in the Prairie Provinces despite the lack of active exploration for natural gas and the possibility of the discovery of further supplies with the development of "proven" and "probable" reserves are disclosed in a report on a recent survey of the situation conducted by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. The report entitled "Natural Gas Reserves of the Prairie Provinces" and prepared by two departmental officials, Dr. G.S. Hume, Director General of Scientific Services, and A. Ignatieff of the Mines Branch, outlines the developments in natural gas since the Department's previous survey in November, 1948. Reserves at that time were estimated at 4.3 trillion cubic feet.

CAPPED AND ABANDONED

While noting the 50 per cent increase in reserves, the report stresses the difficulties encountered in making an appraisal of gas resources when little or no active exploration for gas has been undertaken. Discoveries have either been capped or abandoned due to a lack of market outlets and possible extensions of the various fields, therefore, remain unknown.

According to the report very favourable geological conditions for the occurrence of oil and gas exist within a sedimentary area consisting of 245,000 square miles in Alberta, 55,000 square miles in the contiguous area of British Columbia and, to a lesser extent, in an area of 185,000 square miles in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

While few oil wells have been drilled in Alberta without getting some gas shows, the fields in and immediately east of the Foothills such as Turner Valley, Pincher Creek and Jumpingpound, are listed as offering "the greatest prospects for large gas fields". The large gas reserves in the Leduc oilfields have been appraised on the basis of the present extent and estimated oil recovery of the field. The report also includes an estimate of the gas from the Redwater and Golden Spike fields, although the gas-oil ratios of the solution gas are too low to provide excess gas for commercial use.

On the basis of experience and favourable geological conditions the belief is expressed that "if large markets and a reasonably attractive price warranted a vigorous search for gas further large quantities would be found and in amount far exceeding those now proven and probable".

FISHERIES RESEARCH: The Fisheries Research Board of Canada operates seven stations located along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and inland. Every year the officers of the Board visit the stations to obtain a first-hand account of the work in progress and to discuss administrative and other matters associated with the investigations being currently undertaken.

This year the Board's tour of the East Coast stations, which took place in the latter part of August, included for the first time an official visit to Newfoundland. Since that Island became Canada's 10th Province, one of the more important administrative undertakings has been the co-ordination of the Newfoundland Fisheries Station with the general operation of the Board. This has been achieved by continuing the local laboratory as the Newfoundland Biological Station. The station is concentrating on the biology of groundfish and gradually expanding its work on the biology of inshore fisheries, collaborating at all times with the Atlantic Biological Station at St. Andrews, N.B. The responsibility for the Newfoundland fisheries technological investigations has been added to that of the Atlantic Fisheries Experimental Station at Halifax, N.S., necessitating an increase in the staff and an enlargement of the facilities there. (Fisheries Department Trade News.)

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DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, TRADE FAIR: Charles C. Hoffman of Montreal has been appointed Deputy Administrator of the Canadian International Trade Fair, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe has announced.

In making the announcement, Mr. Howe said that the sudden and tragic loss in July of the Administrator, Mr. R.H. Dayton, has made necessary some reorganization of the Trade Fair administration. Mr. Glen Bannerman, Director of the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission, under whose general direction the Trade Fair has been run, has assumed direct responsibility as Administrator of the Fair, which takes place from May 28 to June 8, 1951. Mr. Hoffman will take charge of the Toronto office and the staff who carry out the details of the work.

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PRIME MINISTER GUEST OF HONOUR: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, has accepted an invitation to be guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Military College Ex-Cadet Club of Canada at the Kingston, Ontario, college on Saturday, September 30. The dinner and annual meeting of the Ex-Cadet Club will be held in conjunction with opening exercises for RMC.

RMC reopened its gates as a tri-service college for future officers in 1948. Cadets who enrolled then will be starting their third term at the end of this month. First graduates will not leave the college until 1952.