

1952-53 with: "Stake a claim and make your fortune," has added a second storey to his store and is president of his own uranium company.

One day last spring, northward migrating caribou wandered through the streets. Families awoke to see caribou standing in their back yards. It was a strange sight, even in this far-North community, one Uranium City folk will not likely see again.

The entire Beaverlodge mining area is very much alive. In the field's brief, but spectacular nine-year history, Canadian and United States mining interests have poured \$100,000, -

000 into exploration and development.

The three mills operating here are now concentrating about 4,400 tons of uranium-bearing ore daily. Beaverlodge mines have contracted with the federal government to deliver more than \$300,000,000 worth of uranium concentrate by the end of 1962.

Value of Saskatchewan's uranium output should reach \$50,000,000 this year and \$70,000,000 in 1958. In 1954, the first full year of production, the figure was \$11,058,544. Last year's estimated value of \$27,000,000 was on a par with copper, hitherto the leader in the metallic field.

OILSEEDS FROM CANADA

Canada's production of oil-yielding crops has tripled in the last five years. The bulk of these crops is sold abroad and as a result, Canada's traditional position as a net importer of fats and oils has changed to that of a net exporter, according to the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Most of the increased production is in the Prairie Provinces where farmers faced with a large carryover of cereal grains have sought alternative cash crops. Producers have tried many crops new to that area--among them oil crops such as sunflower, safflower, soybeans, rape and mustardseed. The farmer's natural liking for crops which are not subject to delivery quotas coincides with the interest scientists have shown in oilseeds: A great deal of work has been and continues to be done by the Department of Agriculture, the National Research Council, and a number of universities on all phases of production and use of vegetable oils.

Because the vegetable oil industry is considered strategic throughout the world, many governments regulate production, exports and imports strictly. These regulations, of course, have a bearing on the future of the oilseed industry in Canada and make it almost impossible to predict its future.

FLAX IS MAIN OIL CROP

Despite the rapid expansion of some of the new oil crops such as rape, flaxseed (which is no newcomer) is Canada's main oilseed crop. In 1956 production reached about 980 thousand tons, nearly double the 1955 figure. Saskatchewan produced over half of it and Manitoba and Alberta accounted for most of the remainder. Acreage this year is up an estimated 16 per cent but the size of the crop depends on a great many factors and has varied widely over the years.

Flax production increased rapidly when the West was first settled because it was one of the few crops which farmers could grow successfully on new land in the same year that it was broken. Production totalled 700 thou-

sand tons in 1912 but in the following years, output declined and in 1933 only 18,000 tons were harvested. This decline is attributed to the inability of flax to compete with weeds under the cultural practices used in the past, its susceptibility to disease such as wilt, and the unfounded but persistent belief that flax is hard on the soil. Improved varieties, better cultural practices, and a greater understanding of soil chemistry have combined to overcome most of these obstacles.

Canada remained a net importer of flaxseed throughout the thirties, but wartime incentives pushed production up to 500 thousand tons in 1943. The following year production dropped sharply and it continued to fall off until 1947, when the current rise began.

World trade in flaxseed is particularly significant to Canada because we depend heavily on the export market; the domestic market in recent years has absorbed about 230 thousand tons a year--less than a quarter of the 1956 production. The United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, Argentina and India produce over 90 per cent of the world's flaxseed--a near record 4.78 million tons in 1956. India and the Soviet Union are not important in world flaxseed trade, but both Argentina and the United States are keen competitors.

Production in Argentina has been increasing rapidly in the past few years and reached 700 thousand tons last year. Despite the marked increase, present production in Argentina is far less than in the late thirties. For a number of years Argentina has stressed exports of flaxseed oil and has prohibited export of the seed in an effort to stimulate the local crushing industry. However, the Argentine Government has just announced that it has authorized exports of flaxseed. This means increasing competition in European markets for Canadian exporters, because our trade is largely in seed rather than oil. European importers have adequate crushing facilities and therefore favour imports of seed.

In the United States, also a competitor, the 1957 crop will probably top last year's