



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 21 No. 10

March 9, 1966

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CANADA'S NATURAL WEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

The following is part of a recent address by Mr. Robert H. Winters, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to the annual meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of Ontario in Ottawa:

...The undertaking of gigantic projects has been a hallmark of Canada's economic progress. Confederation was confirmed as the railroads spanned the continent, penetrating through the Rockies, crossing the Laurentian Shield and stimulating growth and development along the way. Iron-ore bodies were developed to provide iron for rails and rolling stock. Non-ferrous metals were discovered at Sudbury and Trail. Lumber mills moved north from the St. Lawrence along the rails and later were joined by large newsprint mills. New metal finds included the rich gold mines of Timmins and Kirkland Lake, and the mixed metals of Rouyn-Noranda and Flin Flon. The water of the scenic Niagara cataract was converted to power as electricity became a new basis for industry. Meanwhile, the abundant forests of the Pacific Coast began to supply logs to lumber-mills which sprang up to process them. Gold in the Cariboo and in the Yukon brought adventurous men to these new frontiers. Later, Alberta's Turner Valley laid the foundation for future oil and gas development.

MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

If these events seem too historic for some, I can move quickly to more recent names on the honour list. The discovery of oil at Leduc was followed by Redwater, Pembina and the Peace River fields. Uranium developments at Elliot Lake, Beaverlodge

and Bancroft were another turning point in Canada's energy evolution. Steep Rock preceded Knob Lake in a series of iron-ore projects. Lynn Lake, Manitouwadge, Gaspé, Thompson, Mattagami, Chibougamau, Bathurst, Craigmont and Bethlehem are names that ring bells for base metals. Kitimat brought aluminum to the Pacific and Baie Comeau was added to eastern output. Among other minerals were Cassiar and Advocate in asbestos, and Jefferson Lake in sulphur recovery from gas.

Big new pulp-mills have arisen at Prince Rupert, Castlegar and Hinton in the West, and on Canso Strait and at Rothesay in the Maritimes, and many places between. Hydro projects in recent decades have ranged from Shipshaw and Bersimis through Seaway Power to Kemano on the Pacific. And the scope of recent transportation undertakings will stand high in our history: the St. Lawrence Seaway; the Trans-Canada Highway; the Canso Causeway; oil and gas pipelines to the Pacific and to the East; railways to Pine Point, Chibougamau, and Quebec Labrador.

WIDESPREAD ENERGY EXPLOITATION

And now the pace has quickened again. Deep potash mines multiply in Saskatchewan, thanks to the triumph of engineers over shaft-sinking problems. The wide forests of British Columbia now shelter and feed a dozen big new pulp-mills. Tremendous hydro systems are being created on the Columbia and Peace Rivers in British Columbia, on the Nelson in Manitoba, on the Manicouagan in Quebec, at Mactaquac on the St. John, and at Baie d'Espoir in Newfoundland.