

contract for the first few years of production. The present town of Sherridon, Manitoba, is now in the process of being moved -- virtually lock, stock and barrel -- by tractor train to Lynn Lake. This in itself is a feat to stir the imagination.

In the atomic age we have entered, uranium for peaceful purposes and for the free world's defence has taken on a crucial importance. Canada is already a major uranium producer by virtue of the operations of the crown-owned Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, at Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories. This Crown Company has been carrying out a development programme in the Beaverlodge Lake area of northern Saskatchewan, toward the eastern end of Lake Athabasca. The forecast is that production from this property will be at least equal to, and probably considerably in excess of production from the Great Bear Lake property. The Department of Resources and Development joined with the Government of Saskatchewan and prospective uranium producers in sponsoring the construction of a 14-mile road giving the property access to water transportation to the south. This road has been completed and will be in use this coming summer.

Then there is Alberta oil. Just five years ago the Canadian crude petroleum industry supplied only 10 per cent of our domestic requirements. To-day the proportion is close to 50 per cent. The Alberta oil fields are now producing at an average rate of 160,000 barrels a day from the 3,000 wells already brought in. A pipeline extends from Edmonton to Superior, Wisconsin, and from it comes crude oil to feed the great refineries at Sarnia. As the hub of this development, the Edmonton metropolitan area has been experiencing a population growth unmatched by any other major city. Between the census years 1941 and 1951 its population rose from 98,000 to 172,000 or by more than 75 per cent. The story of Alberta oil is still unfolding. We may glance, too, at the famous Athabasca tar sands, roughly 250 miles north of Edmonton. Some day an economic process for extracting the oil in those sands may allow us to draw on petroleum reserves greater than all the proved commercial oil reserves of the rest of the world combined. At the present time Alberta has in sight a vast capital investment programme based to a great extent on oil and gas.

Still farther west, on the coast of British Columbia, the Aluminum Company of Canada has embarked on the first stage of a half-billion dollar project at Kitimat, 400 miles north of Vancouver. This first stage will bring in from 80,000 to 100,000 metric tons of new aluminum capacity by 1955. A further stage may increase this capacity to more than 500,000 tons, and could be completed by 1957, depending on markets and other factors. Measure this against the 400,000 metric tons of aluminum produced in Canada in 1950, and you gain a good conception of how big and important this western development is going to be.

Resource Development in the Northwest Territories and Yukon

I have mentioned only a few highlights of development in the various provinces of Canada. The process is being repeated many times over in greater or lesser degree from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

But there is an area north of the 60th parallel - beyond the northern boundary of the provinces - whose resources merit our attention.