

EXPLORATION SPENDING

Northern Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien announced recently that preliminary figures for 1971 indicated that more money was spent on oil and gas exploration north of the 60th Parallel last year than anywhere else in Canada.

In the Yukon and Northwest Territories, exploration expenditures for 1971 totalled \$148,300,000, which covered geological surveys, geophysical surveys and drilling.

The amount spent exceeded by \$400,000 the exploration expenditures in Alberta, the second highest spender, where the 1971 bill for oil and gas exploration came to \$147,900,000.

"In the final analysis," Mr. Chrétien said, "the one reliable indicator of the degree of confidence felt by companies with oil and gas interests in the North is the amount of risk capital they are prepared to put into exploration ventures there. The fact that close to \$150 million was spent there last year, and that this figure is the highest in Canada for the period, is the best evidence to date that confidence in the North's potential is high."

MEDICAL GENETICS

Quebec is the only province in Canada that has an integrated network for genetic diseases. Several drops of blood are taken from each newborn baby's heel. The sample is analyzed at the Laval University Medical Centre to determine in time whether or not the baby has any genetic disease, caused by the slow alteration of the relative frequencies of the genes.

The provincial network for genetic diseases is headed by the team of Dr. Claude Laberge from the Laval University Medical Centre. The other universities in the network are Montreal, Sherbrooke and McGill.

APRIL STRIKES

Work stoppages during April 1972 resulted in a loss of 1,812,570 man-days, according to the Canada Department of Labour. This large time-loss is mainly attributable to an 11-day general strike by some 210,000 employees of the Quebec government, comprising hospital workers, teachers, civil servants, hydro and liquor board employees. The strike, from April 11 to 22, accounted for 1,637,000 man-days loss, or about 90 per cent of the national total for the month.

The April figure represents 130 man-days lost for every 10,000 worked by non-agricultural paid workers. In March 1972, the loss was 351,870 man-days, representing 23 in 10,000 worked.

The total of 94 work stoppages in April 1972 involved 232,706 workers, compared to 84 stoppages and 230,702 workers in the previous month. Last year, April had 99 stoppages involving 24,641 workers.

About 96 per cent of the man-days lost and 97 per cent of the workers idle during April 1972 resulted from nine work stoppages, each of which involved 500 or more workers.

An analysis by industry of all work stoppages in April shows one in forestry; one in mining; 46 in manufacturing; 13 in construction; ten in transportation and utilities; eight in trade; one in finance; six in service and eight in public administration.

The analysis by jurisdiction was: Newfoundland, five; Nova Scotia, three; New Brunswick, three; Quebec, 23; Ontario, 35; Manitoba, one; Saskatchewan, three; Alberta, two; British Columbia, 16; federal jurisdiction, three.

NEW CANADIAN AWARDS

(Continued from P. 2)

the foe must now be added patience and steadfastness in keeping the peace between factions in conflict, stamina and effectiveness in exercising Canadian sovereignty in distant parts of our country, courage and skill in support of the civil power, whether it be in rescue operations, disaster relief or, for that matter, fighting forest-fires.

The Order of Military Merit has three levels - Commander, Officer and Member. Every serviceman, irrespective of rank, may aspire to appointment to the Order at any of its three levels.

The *Order of Canada*, as originally constituted, provided for a Medal of Courage to be awarded in recognition of acts of conspicuous bravery. Although many Canadians have qualified for such a medal, and indeed been nominated for it, it has never been awarded, in part because of the problems faced in trying to make one decoration cover a whole range of acts of courage. The Government has concluded that what is required is a series of three decorations: the Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery. These awards will be granted to both civilian and military personnel. Members will remember the tragic events that took place on the destroyer *Kootenay* some years ago, when a number of our servicemen distinguished themselves by acts of bravery. They will now be recommended for Canadian bravery decorations, as will many other Canadians who have put their lives at risk for the safety of others. Preliminary work has been under way for some years, and I am confident that announcements of awards will be made in the near future.

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