

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH: Following an exhaustive analysis of Canada's natural resources in which he touched on trade development, water power, aluminum, oil, uranium and iron ore, Major General H.A. Young, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, and Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, spoke as follows at the Rotary Club of London, Ont., on January 26, on, "recent resource developments in the North:"

"In the Northwest Territories, gold was discovered at Yellowknife in 1935 and the first mine came into production in 1938. In 1952 the producing mines in the Yellowknife area produced over \$8,400,000 worth of gold. The mining of pitchblende was begun at Port Radium as far back as 1933, and the Eldorado property has been Crown operated since 1944. At Pine Point, on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, there are extensive lead-zinc deposits which are now undergoing thorough exploration as the possible site of a really large-scale mining operation....

"A mine at Pine Point would have access to particularly favourable locations for the development of hydro power, especially on the Slave River between Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith on the border between Alberta and the Territories, but also on the nearby Taltson River. It is conceivable, too, that exploration now being undertaken may find natural gas in the region. Altogether it is not really too fanciful to envisage for the not too distant future a town being developed at Pine Point which would enjoy railway connections with the south.

NICKEL DEPOSIT

"At Ferguson Lake in the Eastern Arctic, a deposit of nickel is being prospected, and a promising showing of the same metal is being explored at Rankin Inlet on the west coast of Hudson Bay. In addition, there are several other definite prospects for base metal developments in the Territories.

"The search for oil begun in Alberta has been surging northward into the Territories. In the last fifteen months oil and natural gas exploration permits have been granted or applied for covering an area of some 35,000,000 acres, or roughly 55,000 square miles, which is more than the combined area of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"Industrial expansion has not been associated solely with mineral wealth. Since 1945 there has been a commercial fishing industry in Great Slave Lake which in the 1951-52 season produced fish, principally whitefish and Lake trout, having a marketed value of well over two million dollars. Most of the catch is marketed in the United States.

"In the Yukon, the historic creeks in the Dawson area are now being worked by enormous dredges, and still yield over two and a half

million dollars worth of gold a year. At Mayo there is already an important base metal production which seems certain to undergo a marked expansion within the next few years. If it does, that would merely continue a growth which has seen the value of the metals produced in this area, principally silver, lead and zinc, increase from little more than two million dollars in 1948 to roughly \$8,450,000 last year.

"Just two months ago the Northwest Territories Power Commission, an agency of the federal Government, put into operation its new power plant on the Mayo River, which was built to serve the area's mining development. Interesting possibilities exist for other mineral developments in the Yukon. In the North, as elsewhere in Canada, a great deal of exploration remains to be done before the extent and the ultimate potential of our resources can be judged."

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1952 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: The number of work stoppages arising from industrial disputes in Canada during 1952 was considerably lower than the figure for 1951 although total time loss was much higher, according to a preliminary summary of strikes and lockouts for 1952, released by the Minister of Labour, Mr. M.F. Gregg.

Preliminary figures for 1952 showed 213 strikes and lockouts, involving 118,463 workers, with a time loss of 2,869,587 man-working days, as compared with 259 work stoppages in 1951 with 102,870 workers involved and a time loss of 901,739 days. The peak year since 1939 was 1946 when there were 228 strikes and lockouts with 139,474 workers involved and a time loss of 4,516,393 man-working days.

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ALL-TIME BIRTH RECORD: Continuing the general upward trend of recent years, live births in Canada in 1951 rose to an all-time record number of 380,101 from 371,071 in 1950, and the previous high of 371,740 in 1947. At the same time, deaths from all causes and at all ages increased in number to 125,454 from 123,789 the year before. As a result of the greater increase in births than in deaths, the natural increase in population in 1951 rose to 254,647 -- largest in the records -- as compared with 247,282 in 1950.

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AIR CARRIERS: Operating revenues and expenses of Canadian air carriers both were higher in August than in the same month of 1951. Earnings climbed 34 per cent to \$9,759,258 from \$7,303,618, and expenses advanced 40 per cent to \$7,936,546 from \$5,688,546. The resulting net operating revenues totalled \$1,822,712 as compared with \$1,615,072.