

PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS IN NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

The following is a partial text of a speech by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Walter Dinsdale, to the Alberta and Northwest Chamber of Mines and Resources in Edmonton, on 12 January 1962:

"...In any partnership there must be a fair division of responsibilities and duties. In the Northern development partnership, this division is clear. The work of exploring, developing and marketing the resources is the responsibility of private enterprise. To the Federal Government falls the duty of providing the conditions under which development may be carried forward with maximum freedom and effectiveness. There are many ways, both direct and indirect, by which we can assist our private enterprise partner: by enacting a framework of regulations and laws under which he can work freely; by showing him, through research, how he can solve technological problems; by helping him build roads, airstrips and other facilities that are essential to any development programme; and, by making a commensurate effort in the public sector of the Northern economy, assure him that we are in earnest about forming the proper social and community environment for resources development.

"...Every possible means of stimulating and assisting private enterprise to enter the regions north of 60° is being studied and a variety of positive and constructive steps have been taken. Each proposal for encouraging Northern resource development is based on objective and realistic appraisal, draws from contemporary practical experience and technology, and benefits from the advice of industry. To do any less would be a disparagement of the very real difficulties and handicaps that confront any economic venture into the Northern resource field. Factors of climate and distance materially affect any Northern enterprise at all stages of development and government assistance is necessary to assure private enterprise a fair return for the risks it is assuming.

TUNGSTEN FIND

"A brief survey of mining activities in the Yukon and Northwest Territories will indicate the quickening pace of resource development during the past few months. In an area near the border between the two territories, a tungsten ore-body is being rapidly developed and will go into production in the fall of 1962. This will become the only tungsten-producing mine in Canada and add significantly to the annual mineral production of the North. Since 1958, when the discovery was made, this whole region has opened up and is rapidly taking shape as an important new mineralized area.

"To aid the exploration and development of this tungsten deposit, the Federal Government has assisted the company with transportation facilities. In fact we revised our development-road programme to meet the special circumstances surrounding this project. We are contributing 50 per cent of the cost of the mine airstrip and two-thirds of the cost of 50 miles of the access road that leads from Mile 65 of the Watson Lake-Ross River Road. Another natural

resource has been utilized in this development. A sawmill was set up to cut a million board feet of timber for the mining camp....

"Through the Federal Government assistance to the Yukon territorial government under the tote-trail programme, a 110-mile winter road was built from the Alaska Highway 10 miles east of Teslin. I am happy to announce that this road was completed yesterday. Federal funds paid for half the cost of this \$60,000 road and there will be federal assistance toward the construction of a 5,000-foot airstrip as well.

COPPER AND SILVER

"Copper has been found at Fire Lake and North Lakes, and two companies are diamond drilling to delineate the extent of these showings. In the Mayo mining district, interesting showings of silver are being investigated. As price controls on silver have now been removed by the U.S. Treasury, we anticipate that there will be a great deal of staking activity in the Mayo district next summer....

"In the Northwest Territories, exploration continues into lead-zinc deposits discovered at Arctic Bay on Baffin Island. On Little Cornwallis Island, a lead deposit discovered during the search for oil is being investigated.

NORTHERN GOLD

"On the mainland there has been considerable staking activity by various major exploration companies in the Contwoyto Lake area. This activity followed the discovery of a reported gold showing too late last fall to allow diamond drilling to be carried out to determine the extent of the occurrence. A gold property in the barren lands northeast of Yellowknife is being further developed. A syndicate has staked about 7,500 acres of mineral rights in mineralized areas along the Redstone River, about 85 miles northeast of the tungsten property. So far, about 30 individual mineral showings containing silver, copper, lead and zinc have been located.

"All this mineral exploration activity indicates a strong interest in northern resource development by private enterprise. The Federal Government is striving to arouse and sustain that interest by various forms of assistance. As you know, the new Canada Mining Regulations, which were introduced in March last year after several meetings with representatives of the industry, contain some new concepts. To provide the incentive for exploration of inactive areas, prospecting permits giving the exclusive right to explore and develop an area for a three-year period were offered. Last summer, 27 permits covering four and a half million acres were issued. The regulations also increase considerably the number of claims allowed in a mining area. Because annual licences are no longer related to the claim, it is not necessary now to renew the licence each year to maintain a claim.

"The Prospectors' Assistance Programme which the Prime Minister announced during his visit to Yellowknife last July provides financial assistance to prospectors and is designed to stimulate prospecting activity as well as encourage the training

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