

our potential is much greater. The story of Alberta oil is still unfolding. On the Pacific Coast, 400 miles north of Vancouver, British Columbia, abundant water power has induced the Aluminum Company of Canada to embark on a half-billion dollar project whose first stage will bring in from 80,000 to 100,000 metric tons of new aluminum capacity by 1955. A further stage could increase this capacity to more than 500,000 tons by 1957. Measure this against the 400,000 metric tons, or 28 per cent of the world total, produced in Canada in 1950, and you gain a good conception of how big and important this Western development is going to be.

Canada's North

As Minister of Resources and Development, my responsibility for, and interest in, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories have taken me into Canada's Arctic annually. I have been fascinated by what I saw. Most Americans probably picture these regions as a Never Never Land locked in eternal ice. Actually, the Arctic Circle itself is sometimes visited by 90 degree temperatures in mid-summer - although by something else again in deep winter. We are discovering that the Canadian North Country is a storehouse of resources. The mining of pitchblende was begun at Port Radium on Great Bear Lake, just 25 miles under the Arctic Circle, as far back as 1933. Farther south, at Yellowknife, on the shore of Great Slave Lake north of the Province of Alberta, there has for years been an important gold-mining camp.

At Pine Point, also on Great Slave Lake, there are extensive lead-zinc deposits which are now undergoing thorough exploration as the potential site of a really large-scale mining operation. At Ferguson Lake, in the Eastern Arctic - the home of the barren ground caribou - a promising deposit of nickel is about to be given a thorough examination. The search for oil begun in Alberta is surging rapidly north into the Territories under the urging of keen interest by your major oil companies. In the Yukon, the historic creeks of the Klondike, which half a century ago yielded their gold to the primitive hand methods of the pioneers who followed the Trail of '98, are now being worked by enormous dredges. East of there, at Mayo, there is already an important base metal production which seems certain to undergo a marked expansion within the next few years. Interesting possibilities exist for other mineral developments in the Yukon where the Federal Government is building a hydro-electric installation to help them along.

Inter-Relationship

Altogether it is an impressive story. In the North, as in the rest of Canada, a great deal of exploration remains to be done before we shall be able to judge the extent and the ultimate potential of our resources. We cannot even guess how the face of Canada will be transformed over the next half-century as our people come to know more and more about the richness of their country. Already our recent economic history has prompted the Principal of McGill University in Montreal to compare and contrast three "expanding economies". The first of these was in England from the accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1558 to the Great Exhibition of 1851, - it is interesting to note that we are celebrating