

Apart from the freight carried to far northern posts by the Canadian Government Vessels "C.D. Howe", "d'Iberville" and N.B. McLean", all other supplies for trade with the Eskimos are carried by privately owned vessels. These vessels have been built and equipped specially for this trade and as such are not suitable for other work. This means that the whole cost of their operation for the year must be charged against the two or three months they can operate in Arctic waters. Freight rates, which are included in the landed cost of goods, are, consequently, high.

The Western Arctic was developed largely by traders coming through Bering Strait. This proved a hazardous route and today most supplies are shipped down the Mackenzie River to Tuktoyaktuk, for distribution from there by motor vessels along the Arctic coast. Navigation in these waters is dangerous in the extreme. The water is shallow in many areas and the Arctic ice never moves very far off the land. The navigation season does not exceed a month to six weeks and in that brief time all supplies must be distributed. Here, also, transportation costs are high. The rate from Waterways to Tuktoyaktuk is \$108 per ton to Spence Bay \$253 per ton.

Future Prospects

The world of the Eskimo is changing. Young Eskimo men are to be found in the Armed Forces and in the Government. There are some at school, planning careers as teachers, and others who are working towards technical posts in Canada's Arctic weather stations. As the years pass, more and more of them will develop as carpenters, wireless operators, and mechanics, so that they will be able to help build a new society in the Arctic.

The Administration is actively studying the Eskimo economy in the light of the known resources of the Arctic. The primary purpose of the educational program is by direction to help the Eskimo people diversify their efforts.

Every effort is being made to maintain the self-sufficiency for which the Eskimos are so justly famous. They will be encouraged in the development of local industries such as whaling, reindeer herding, fishing, boat building, manufacture of certain types of clothing, eiderdown collections, and arts and crafts. Eskimos in overpopulated areas will be helped to emigrate to areas where game is more plentiful, or where employment may be found. A loan fund has been established by the Administration from which loans may be made to assist Eskimos in projects that will better their standard of living.

There is every prospect that this assistance from the Government, plus the Eskimos pride in their own ability, will see them through both their present and future adaptation to an ever expanding civilized world.

March 1954.