

A second route would proceed from Great Slave Lake to the east end of Great Bear Lake and northwards to Coppermine. A five to ten-year plan which has been worked out envisions a grid of roads aimed at opening up the most favourable of the areas from a geological point of view. The Federal Government is planning an extensive road building program in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and is offering assistance to Provincial Governments to provide necessary links between these northern roads to resources, and the more settled areas to the south.

One of the later but by no means unimportant stages in building the economy of Canada should be to arrange for the processing of much of our natural products. This is tied in with the location and supply of energy and strategic metals, as is transportation and markets. A survey of resources in Canada would, at first glance, indicate that the southern part of the Yukon and the southern part of the Mackenzie Valley in the Fort Smith area have the necessary ingredients for expanded industrial production. The interior of British Columbia, both north and south, is also favourable. Other areas could be a northern Manitoba-Saskatchewan area, and the Maritimes.

The most promising of the prospects in the Northwest Territories today are the lead-mine deposits on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, which are considered to be among Canada's largest. Exploitation awaits the provision of transportation facilities. There are also the iron ore deposits on the Belcher Islands in Hudson Bay, and the lithium-bearing dykes east of Yellowknife.

Much has been done toward the topographical and geological mapping of the Northwest Territories, but because of its vast size, the inaccessibility of much of it, and the shortness of field seasons, a great deal remains to be done. Interest in the northland, mineralwise and otherwise, has been increasing, and the Government has been stepping up its mapping activities to meet the demand.

So great is the area to be mapped in Canada that the Geological Survey has had to turn to helicopter-supported parties to provide more rapid reconnaissance so as to be able to evaluate the possibilities of these great unmapped areas within the foreseeable future. By this method, 30 times greater coverage has been achieved during any one season.

In three operations in the field season of 1952, 1954 and 1955, the Survey mapped a total of 185,000 square miles of the Precambrian in the mainland portion of the Territories on a scale of one inch to eight miles.