

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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An address to the Petroleum Accountants Society of Western Canada at the Banff School of Fine Arts on May 19, 1960, by Mr. John C. Pallett, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

... By 1867, the marks of civilization were found throughout parts of this country. A group of men had an ideal. This was not based on economic terms alone, but was an ideal of a nation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific - something to capture the imagination and inspiration of men. Insurmountable difficulties had to be overcome. It took the hard work and faith of a handful to make the nation we today call Canada a reality. Through that, tremendous areas were opened up. Today, Western Canada is settled and developed, and prosperity is present. The confidence in the future is abundant in this country. No longer do we hear statements, such as "the rails will rust from lack of use", no longer the tremendous financial interest of outside powers endeavouring to destroy the unity of the country. The decision of 1867 is today a reality.

And what has brought it about? Many things have contributed. The most significant of all has been the tremendous development of our natural resources, adding vast sources of wealth to our country.

We have created a highly productive nation, albeit in about 15 or 20 per cent of our country. North of us stretches another 80 per cent, just as important as our West of 1867! Just as intriguing, just as promising. What was true of the opening of the West is equally true of the opening of the North today.

Government action and national policy - it seems to me that national policy was the by-word in 1867 - are a "must" if we are to take advantage of our great potential in the North. I suggest to you today that there are three factors of endeavour in the matter of resource development.