

Today the oil producing regions, in order of importance, are Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Northwest Territories, British Columbia and New Brunswick, with Alberta accounting for slightly more than 80 per cent of current production and Saskatchewan, 13 per cent. Alberta and British Columbia have the country's vast natural gas reserves.

A comparison of the two years 1946 and 1956 gives convincing evidence of a rapidly expanding industry. In 1946 Canada produced 19,000 barrels of crude oil daily and had proved reserves of 45 million barrels. By 1956 production had risen to 467,000 barrels daily and reserves to 3 billion barrels. Natural gas reserves increased from 1,500 billion cubic feet to 23,000 billion cubic feet. Only 117 geophysical parties were employed in 1946 and the areas under investigation amounted to 20 million acres. In 1956 as many as 157 geophysical crews were employed and lands held by exploration companies totalled 200 million acres. Less than one million feet of drilling was done in 1946 and only 19 drillings rigs were active; in 1956 over 15 million feet of drilling was done in Western Canada and an average of 218 drilling rigs could be found in use throughout the year. By 1946, an all-time total of 393 oil wells had been drilled; in 1956 this number had reached almost 11,000. During the same period an oil pipeline system of some 6,000 miles had been constructed and petroleum refinery capacity had expanded from 245,000 to 700,000 barrels per day.

Expenditures have been large. During the period 1946-1956, over \$2½ billion were spent in exploration and development of oil and gas resources. Expenditures on pipelines, refineries, and marketing facilities have amounted to an additional one billion dollars, to give total expenditures of \$3½ billion.

In 1956 Canada was 60 per cent self-sufficient in crude oil and petroleum products, compared with less than 10 per cent in 1946. During the same period total demand for oil had increased three-fold due to the rising standard of living and the increase in population. It can be anticipated that the country's progress towards self-sufficiency will continue at a favourable rate, notwithstanding a continuing increase in total demand. That domestic demand will continue to increase is illustrated by the trend in motor vehicle registrations, from 1,631,000 to 4,218,000 in the 1946-1956 period, while the number of oil-heated dwellings rose from less than one-half million to 1,843,000.

Natural gas, which in 1956 accounted for six per cent of total energy demand in Canada, will be used much more extensively as the Trans-Canada gas pipeline and other pipeline systems go into operation. This will provide for more adequate energy supplies, particularly in central Canada, and it will also reduce the dependence on imported coal in that region.

Canada now has the second highest per capita rate of energy consumption in the world. Total energy consumption has increased 50 per cent since 1946. In that year, petroleum contributed less than one-quarter of total energy supply and natural gas about two per cent. In 1956 petroleum accounted for over one-half of Canada's energy supply. In 25 years it is expected that petroleum and natural gas will account for two-thirds to three-quarters of total available energy in Canada.