



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

December 23, 1965

Vol. 20 No. 51

CONTENTS

Modern Pioneering in the North.....	1
Meeting on Rhodesia Supported.....	3
An Image of Poverty	3
Crime Statistics, 1964	3

MODERN PIONEERING IN THE NORTH

The following excerpts are from a recent address by Mr. Arthur Laing, then the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, in Vancouver:

...I had the privilege of leading a small delegation on an extensive visit to the U.S.S.R. for 17 days early this summer. We hoped to learn things of use to Canada and our own North, and these hopes were indeed realized. We undertook, in return, to provide facilities for a similar delegation to visit Canada in return....

Let me set the scene for a description of the trip with a few comparative – and sometimes contrasting – facts. 800,000 people live in Russia beyond the Arctic Circle and as many as 6 million north of the 60th Parallel. This compares with a population of some 45,000 in the Yukon and Northwest Territories combined....

The Russians have a much larger total population to support northern development and, as I have already said, a much larger population living in the North itself. They have a longer northern history. Archangel, for instance, has been a gateway to Russia for 900 years and it is not much younger as a settlement than Moscow itself. The latest Ice Age covered a much larger portion of our northern areas than it did in the U.S.S.R. and much more of our soil was scraped away when it receded leaving sand, rock and gravel. It will take thousands of years to form new soil and its lack is a serious restriction on the development of agriculture in our Northland.

UNTAPPED RESOURCES

The Soviet Union is determined to develop its natural resources so as to provide the basic requirements of

housing and social benefits to its population. This is a tremendous effort that they have embarked upon, and it is being given top priority. Their natural resources are impressive indeed – over 50 per cent of the world's reserves of soft wood, vast hydro-electric potential, extensive deposits of iron, oil, gas, gold, lead, zinc and other metals like magnesium, tungsten, copper, and, of course, bauxite. The impression of a staggering potential is even more evident when it is realized that these resources have scarcely begun to be developed. This is true also in Canada and while the range of resources available in their country is similar to ours they do possess elements not present here.

For development to take place, there must be resources to develop. The renewable resources of Northern Russia include great areas of high-quality timber which will not grow in the less hospitable Canadian North, and important marine fisheries, a bounty resulting from the effect of the Gulf Stream. There is also a long-established reindeer-herding industry and some fur-farming. Agriculture can be carried on farther north than in Canada and there is a greater variety of wild fur.

Both countries are probably rich in non-renewable mineral resources, but Russia has carried out more intensive exploration over a much longer period and, as a result, they have far more to encourage development. The resources we saw and the work they are doing to find out what else they have, is staggering. In Canada the geology seems to be as favourable as in Northern Russia and the distribution of mineral resources should be of the same order. For the most part, however, these resources remain to be discovered.

Our objective must be to obtain as good an inventory as possible of both the known resources and the potential resources of our North, and we are working very hard towards this objective. It is fundamental to development and it leads on to my next point - the importance of research.

RESEARCH IN THE NORTH

Certainly, one of the most important factors that has led to the development of the Soviet North, possibly the most important factor of all, has been the Soviet attitude towards research. From the first they have recognized the part that research must play in the North. The government-controlled Arctic and Antarctic Institute in Leningrad, the network of scientific stations in the North, the scientific institutes throughout Siberia, the floating stations on the ice of the Arctic Ocean, and now the comprehensive Soviet research programme in the Antarctic, provide impressive evidence of the importance and priority they give to polar science. The results of research sometimes appear in startling advances, like the *Sputniks*; more often they appear as many small steps rather than one big one. Radio communications become more reliable, charts more accurate, ice reconnaissance more useful. There can be no doubt that the Soviets have made very great scientific progress in the North and that this is playing a major part in their northern development.

Conditions in the Canadian North are, on the whole, more difficult and we have harder problems to solve. Our main hope of achieving substantial reductions in the cost of northern operations lies in intense and continued research. At the best, research can lead to completely new principles and techniques, which might eliminate the disadvantages now inherent in northern operations. We have only to think of the implications of nuclear-powered cargo-carrying submarines operating under the ice, and the applications of the hovercraft, which can move over water, level land, and ice, and operate during break-up and freeze-up, as well as in summer and winter, to realize something of the new horizons that are coming into view. In any event the data resulting from research will allow planning to be carried out more thoroughly, and without which a particularly heavy penalty is always paid in the North. There is no more expensive place to make mistakes.

PROBLEMS OF CONSTRUCTION

You will be particularly interested in construction. Our delegation noticed that Soviet heavy construction seems to rely - in Siberia - very much on *available* materials such as concrete, bricks and wood, to a far greater extent than in Canada, where we can enjoy the advantage of a wide range of choice of secondary materials. Consequently, the Soviet engineers and builders seemed to be concerned very much with the high costs of construction. Construction costs in capitalist countries seem to have been kept down by the use of less expensive secondary materials mass-produced and by the element of competitiveness. In Siberia, the accent seems to be on developing hydro-electric power for the development of wood, steel,

aluminum, chemical and other primary products. The next step presumably is to develop communications - road and rail transport, as well as means of transporting electrical energy to European Russia.

SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

...I was impressed with the efforts this gigantic nation is making to bring itself into the economic twentieth century. Their dedication and energy is tremendous and so are their achievements. The Soviet experts who visited Canada later were in turn impressed with the achievements we have made in this country. I think some of you met them at that time. They saw the truly spectacular hydro projects at Manicouagan and Portage Mountain, a huge pulp mill at Prince George, the Pine Point mine development, gold mining at Yellowknife, silver Keno in the Yukon, and many construction projects from Montreal, Toronto, Regina, Calgary and Vancouver. I think the principal lesson we have learned from these exchange visits is the fact that our two countries with similar and dissimilar problems in our Northland can expect only mutual benefits from sharing our knowledge, experience and achievements. In some respects, they are ahead of us, and in others we have things to teach them but further exchanges of scientists and other northern specialists between the two principal "northern" countries in the world will make a real contribution to our efforts to come to grips with the North. Exchanges of this kind will now proceed from the very solid base that has been laid by the two visits this summer.

CANADA TURNS NORTH

...As indicated earlier, it is only recently that we Canadians have turned our faces and our minds to the North. We have now begun to write the second chapter in the development of our nation following on that period after Confederation when the prime objective was understandably to link together our different regions from East to West. The economy of the North is still principally sustained by government expenditures. Federal Government departments alone spend more than \$10 million annually on wages and salaries for their employees in the North. Territorial and municipal governments help to swell this total. The *per capita* income of the Northwest Territories estimated at about \$833 in 1961 is still below the national average. Progress is being made, however, in the field of mining which is and will probably continue to be for some time the principal commercial activity in the north. The value of mineral production fell from a peak of \$27 million in 1960 to \$15.4 million in 1963. The start of the Pine Point project, however, has changed that picture as it is expected that its production alone will exceed \$20 million a year. We recognize the responsibility of the Government in the economic development of the North and our objective is to create a climate within which private enterprise will come forward to participate.

You may have heard of the Government's recently announced new northern roads policy. Under this programme, the Federal Government will invest an average of \$10 million over the next ten years to increase and to improve this network in the Yukon

MEETING ON RHODESIA SUPPORTED

Mr. L.B. Pearson, Prime Minister, recently sent a message to Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister of Nigeria, in reply to a message from the latter proposing a meeting of Commonwealth heads of government on or about January 10, in Lagos or some other Commonwealth capital.

Mr. Pearson told Sir Abubakar that he welcomed this proposal and would be prepared to attend such a conference if it were agreeable to Commonwealth governments.

In the view of the Prime Minister, the crisis in Rhodesia could place a great strain on Commonwealth relations, and an early exchange of views should help to reduce areas of possible misunderstanding and further the aim of all Commonwealth countries of bringing the illegal situation in Rhodesia to an early end.

AN IMAGE OF POVERTY

A recent study conducted for ARDA by the Canadian Welfare Council has revealed that, in some areas, Canada's rural poor subsist on monthly incomes, consisting of welfare and family allowances, as low as \$11.71 a person.

The findings of the CWC study, which are intended to provide an "image of poverty" in Canada by learning from the poor themselves how they live and how they feel about being poor, were published in a report released recently by ARDA. The report, made public in Ottawa at the Prime Minister's Federal-Provincial Conference on Poverty, covers four rural areas defined as poor by national standards, namely, Inverness County in Nova Scotia, Gatineau, Papineau and Pontiac counties in Quebec, Lanark County in Ontario and the Interlake region of Manitoba.

Some 290 families in these low-income areas were interviewed. The resulting case histories include data on a father whose total income of \$164 a month — from social assistance — must support himself, his wife and 12 dependent children. This man, in his 50s, disabled and unable to work, sees little hope of change. Appalling living conditions were discovered in some homes, but rarely, if ever, were these conditions seen as the cause or the symptom of moral or social degradation, as is commonly supposed.

The average *per capita* monthly income for the families interviewed was found to be highest in Lanark County, at \$44, followed by the three Quebec counties with \$41, Manitoba \$36 and Inverness \$28. For the most part, families derive income from primary industries — farming, fishing, woodcutting — and unskilled labour.

Their isolation and inability to do anything about it frustrate the rural poor; control of the systems that produce income is in the cities and towns and the rural poor do not share in it. They are torn between settled habits of employment and the necessity of moving into unfamiliar areas in search of work. Afraid to take the chance of moving, they become

resigned to remaining poor at home rather than risking starvation in the big cities.

Practically all the families agree on the importance of education and want their children to have the best, so they may be equipped for suitable employment, and they realize that this is to be found only outside their communities.

"If there is a single conclusion to be drawn from the study," says project director David Woodsworth, "it is that the poor are not degraded, and that there is a great deal that can be done to restore to them a just share in the life of the country. These people are hard-working and infinitely patient. They are open to the possibility of change, but they are pervaded by the sense of the inadequacy of their own resources to meet the demands of a changing world."

CRIME STATISTICS, 1964

Preliminary figures from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that police forces in Canada reported 959,361 offences during 1964, excluding traffic offences. Police reported 215 capital and non-capital murders in 1964 compared to 214 during 1963. Rape offences increased sharply over 1963. The rate for assaults, excluding indecent assaults, increased from 208.3 in 1963 to 252.1 per 100,000 population aged 7 years and over in 1964. Assaults include such offences as common assault and assault causing bodily harm. Breaking and entering and theft offences also increased since 1963, while robbery decreased. Fraud offences showed a slight increase in rate since 1963 (193.3 to 207.1). Increases were reported for offences against federal statutes, while the rate for provincial showed another marked increase in 1964.

NUMBERS CLEARED

Of the 959,361 reported offences, 541,099 (56.4 per cent) were cleared. Of 215 capital and non-capital murder offences reported, 174 (80.9 per cent) were cleared. In general, offences against the person such as murder, rape, assaults, wounding showed a higher percentage cleared than offences against property, such as theft over or under \$50, breaking and entering or robbery. In 1964, 105.9 per cent of manslaughters were cleared. Some of these 1964 clearances were for offences reported in earlier years. Of all offences, thefts over \$50 had the lowest per cent cleared. In general, offences against federal and provincial statutes and municipal by-laws showed a high percentage cleared.

Police reported 453,136 persons charged with offences in 1964, a rate of 2,823.0 persons per 100,000 population 7 years of age and over, compared to the 1962 rate of 2,524.0 and the 2,675.9 rate for 1963. While the rate for persons charged under provincial statutes and for criminal code offences rose in approximately the same proportion, there was a marked decrease in the number of persons charged under municipal by-laws.

The rates for adults charged rose for the criminal code, federal statutes and provincial statutes to a lesser degree than the rates for total persons charged,

while the drop in rates for adults charged under municipal by-laws was almost identical to the drop in total persons charged.

The rates for juveniles charged rose also for the first three categories. Because of the smaller number of juveniles involved, the percentage increases are much higher than for adults as is the decrease for juveniles charged under municipal by-laws.

MODERN PIONEERING IN THE NORTH

(Continued from P. 2)

and Mackenzie District of the Northern Territories. This will be a flexible programme, in that the decisions as to where and when each road will be built within the context of the overall programme will depend on the best available information and advice at the time regarding access to resources and upon the changing social, educational, commercial, tourist and other needs which must be served by a dynamic and flexible road policy.

There is a provision for north-south transportation within the Territories and for road links between them and the provinces. For the first time, there will be an east-west link between the two Territories. Under this programme, we will be able to reduce transportation costs, link many communities, in the Northwest Territories particularly, and make some progress in closing the gap between costs in the North and those in southern Canada.

KINDS OF NORTHERN ROAD

The programme provides for several categories of road, ranging from tote trails, which are low-grade exploration roads, to trunk highways, which are roads of high construction standards and which provide a connection between the Territories and the southern part of the country, as well as between the principal centres of population within the Territories. You have probably also heard of the Great Slave Lake Railroad running north from near Grimshaw, Alberta, for 377 miles to Hay River on Great Slave Lake. This railway which includes a 55-mile long branch line into Pine Point, the site of the big new lead, zinc, mining project in the Northwest Territories was financed by the Federal Government.

It was built and is operated by the Canadian National Railways for Canada and was finished months ahead of schedule. It has not only made the development of the mine at Pine Point and the potential of the surrounding area possible, but it has opened

up 5 million acres of potentially arable land to farm settlement and 13 million acres of forest land to the timber industry. It has also had, and will continue to have, a considerable effect on the economy of British Columbia, as the ore concentrates move over this line to the smelter at Trail, B.C.

The Government must continue to provide to the people in the North social and welfare benefits equal to those received by other Canadians. It is also striving to give the schooling, vocational, occupational training and university opportunities which will enable the people of the Yukon and Northwest Territories to be competitive in the twentieth century. By and large, only 15 per cent of the people of the Northwest Territories had the benefit of schooling 10 years ago. Eighty-five per cent of the children of school age are now receiving a schooling which — by programmes especially adapted to their needs but based on southern Canadian school standards — are equipping them for the years ahead. It is too soon — after 10 years only — to know what the effects will be. We do know, however, that in many cases they are taking advantage of the knowledge to improve their lot.

There is no question in my mind that two important results will be achieved by active government measures to enhance the education of the people of the North. They will be given an opportunity to lead a more meaningful and satisfactory life and achieve a higher material standard of living. The active partnership of the public and private sectors will mean the development of those resources upon which the investments now being made on social services and education can be supported.

The Northerners have been questioning, recently, the form of governments they have. This is a healthy development. You have heard of the recently appointed Advisory Commission on the Development of Government in the Northwest Territories. This Commission... had been given a task of major importance to the Northwest Territories and to the people of Canada.... They will review the governmental services and administration which have grown rapidly during the last 10 years and will search out and recommend the best pattern for government to meet the present situation there and to provide for the years of expansion that lie ahead.

The future changes will be designed to lead to as efficient an organization of government as possible with increasing devolution of authority and responsibility to territorial and municipal levels of government. At the same time, our present policies, programmes and service are being closely reviewed to ensure that the means of achieving Canada's objectives in the North are being made available....