

The Department of the Interior has set aside certain areas, totalling over 500,000 sq. miles, as preserves wherein only the Indian and the Eskimo may hunt. Officers in the field have made investigations into the conditions affecting musk-ox, caribou, and other forms of wild life. The Wood-Buffalo park in the vicinity of Fort Smith covers an area of 17,300 sq. miles; it has been specially preserved for the protection of the buffalo. The Thelon Game Sanctuary to the east of Great Slave lake is in its turn the home of musk-oxen and caribou.

Included in the Northwest Territories are the Arctic prairies, which are capable of supplying pasturage to millions of reindeer and caribou. Following investigations, steps have been taken to establish a Government herd of reindeer in a suitable location on the lower Mackenzie. Indications are that this experiment will result in a plentiful meat supply in the future.

Another feature of administration has been the installation of a chain of wireless stations. This has been a great boon to the isolated posts of the Mackenzie district, as the traders and trappers are now able to keep in constant touch with outside markets, a condition enabling them to dispose of their catch to the greatest advantage. In addition to supplying market news, the radio keeps the inhabitants of the North in contact with some of the amenities of civilization.

Exploratory work has been pushed forward throughout the Territories and local surveys made in the Mackenzie and Franklin districts. Mining prospectors are following in the tracks of the explorers and the aeroplane has been used as the means of transportation to the field of operations. Drilling operations near Norman on the Mackenzie river resulted a few years ago in striking a considerable flow of oil. Exploitation of this resource awaits only the further general development of the area. The Laurentian Shield, which has proved so rich in valuable minerals in Eastern Canada, is continued into the eastern half of the Territories—that portion lying between Great Slave lake and Hudson bay—and, although little exploration has been carried out to date, valuable mineral finds have been made, including the radium deposit of Great Bear lake and the copper of Coppermine. The agricultural land of the Territories lies almost entirely in the extension of the central plain defined by the Mackenzie valley.

It is known that there are many possible water-power sites throughout the Territories; these will no doubt be developed as a consequence of mining enterprises. Much of the upper Mackenzie valley carries a forest cover, which furnishes timber and fuel for local needs. Fishing, agriculture, mining and lumbering are engaged in to some extent, but the principal industry of the Territories is the taking and export of furs. Many trading posts operate throughout the regions tributary to the Arctic coast, Hudson bay, and the great inland systems of waterways.

The Yukon Territory.—The Yukon Territory is administered by the Dominion Lands Administration of the Department of the Interior as in the case of the Northwest Territories. The Gold Commissioner, resident at Dawson, is the executive head of a local elective government of three members termed the Yukon Council, with jurisdiction over local matters. The Gold Commissioner acts on instructions from the Governor in Council or the Minister of the Interior. Hospitals, schools, motor roads, and other amenities of modern life have been provided and in addition to the overland telegraph line, wireless stations at Dawson and Mayo link up with the outside world through the Northwest Territories and Edmonton.