

In order to augment the supply of wild life available as a source of food and clothing for the natives, the Dominion Government, in 1935, established a herd of Alaskan reindeer on a reserve of approximately 6,600 square miles, immediately east of the Mackenzie delta. The herd has increased in numbers and is contributing to the well-being of the resident population, certain of whom are being trained in the handling of the deer.

In view of the great increase in the use of aircraft for mail and general transportation, the Administration is undertaking the development of landing facilities throughout the Mackenzie District. A winter landing field has been provided at Fort Smith and others are in course of completion at Providence and Norman. Floating docks, etc., have been constructed at several points for the use of seaplanes.

An excellent air-mail service craft is provided by the Post Office Department, while the Department of National Defence operates a system of radio stations linking up the chief settlements and mining centres of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory with Edmonton, Alberta. Radio stations are in operation at Fort Smith, Resolution, Simpson, Norman, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk (seasonal), Herschel Island (seasonal), Cameron Bay, Rae, Outpost Island, Dawson, Mayo, Whitehorse, and Burwash Landing. Direction-finding and meteorological stations are operated by the Department of Transport at Chesterfield, Nottingham Island, Resolution Island, and Coppermine.

Exploratory work has been carried on throughout the Territories and much aerial surveying has been done particularly in the mineralized areas of Mackenzie District. Mineral prospectors are exploring new areas, the aeroplane being used as the chief means of transportation. The Precambrian Shield, which has proved so rich in valuable minerals in southerly Canada, is continued into the Territories—that portion lying between Great Slave and Great Bear lakes and Hudson bay—and valuable discoveries have been made in this area. The rich native silver and high-grade pitchblende ores discovered, during the past few years, near Great Bear lake are now under development. The oil wells near Norman on Mackenzie river have been in active operation since 1932, the bulk of the oil produced being used by mining interests operating at the eastern end of Great Bear lake. In recent years much prospecting has been carried out in the Great Slave Lake area where discoveries of gold have been reported. Active development is now in progress at many points. The agricultural land of the Territories lies almost entirely in the extension of the central plain along the Mackenzie valley.

It is known that there are many possible water-power sites throughout the Territories and certain of them may be developed as a consequence of mining enterprises. Much of the Mackenzie valley carries a forest cover, which furnishes timber and fuel for local needs. Fishing, agriculture, and lumbering are engaged in to some extent, but the principal industry of the Territories is still the taking and exportation of furs, with mining rapidly increasing in importance. Many trading posts operate throughout the regions tributary to the Arctic coast, Hudson bay, and the great inland systems of waterways.

Yukon.—Yukon was created a separate Territory in June, 1898. Provision is made for a local Government composed of a chief executive classified as Controller, also an Elective Legislative Council with jurisdiction over local matters and composed of three members with a three-year tenure of office. The Controller administers the Government under instructions from the Governor General in Council or the Minister of Mines and Resources. The seat of government is at Dawson. The Territory has hospitals, schools and other amenities of modern life, including wireless and telegraphic facilities. The population in 1931 was 4,230.