

Important developments during the year 1942 included the drilling program undertaken at the Norman Wells oil-field in the Lower Mackenzie Basin as part of the Canol Project; the re-opening of the pitchblende-silver property of Eldorado Mining and Refining, Limited, at Labine Point on Great Bear Lake; and the improvement and extension of aeroplane landing fields in the Mackenzie District. In 1943 a shortage of labour resulting from war conditions brought about a decline in gold production in the Yellowknife District.

The Canol Project, more fully described at p. 316 of the 1943-44 Year Book, involved an extensive drilling program to determine the productive capacity of the Norman oil-fields; the construction of a four-inch pipeline from Norman Wells, N.W.T., to Whitehorse, Y.T.; and the erection of a refinery at Whitehorse. By the end of 1943 the productive capacity of the known field had been fairly definitely established, and the pipeline was completed and tested by Mar. 31, 1944. The pumping of oil through the line followed and the refining of oil products was commenced in May, 1944. In March, 1945, the suspension of drilling and production for the Canol Project was ordered by the United States Government. The pumping of crude oil from Norman Wells to Whitehorse, and operation of the refinery at Whitehorse was also discontinued. Production from the Norman Field, however, is being continued by Imperial Oil, Limited, to meet local requirements. As of Mar. 9, 1945, a total of 67 wells had been drilled under the Canol Project, of which 60 produced oil in commercial quantity. In addition, four producing wells had been developed prior to the Canol Project by Imperial Oil, Limited. The latest estimate of the recoverable reserve of the Norman oil field is from 29,000,000 to 33,000,000 bbl.

The mining property of Eldorado Mining and Refining, Limited, closed temporarily in 1940, was re-opened in August, 1942. Wartime demands for concentrates from which radium and uranium salts are extracted have kept the mill at Great Bear Lake operating at capacity. Concentrates are shipped to the Company's refinery at Port Hope, Ont. In January, 1944, all assets of the Company were expropriated by the Government of Canada and are now operated by a Crown company, Eldorado Mining and Refining.

Wartime restrictions on new development work coupled with a shortage of labour resulted in the closing down of the mills of all producing gold mines in the Yellowknife District. In 1941 six mines were in production, but by Oct. 15, 1944, the remaining producer, Negus Mines, Limited, had stopped milling. Development work, however, is being continued at the Con and Negus mines. The total value of mineral production in the Northwest Territories to the end of 1944 was estimated at \$22,898,599, of which gold from the Yellowknife District accounted for \$14,009,000.

Excellent results obtained from drilling on properties of Giant-Yellowknife Gold Mines, Limited, in the winter of 1943-44 precipitated a major rush in the Yellowknife field during the summer of 1944, and by the end of the year nearly 4,000 claims had been staked and recorded. Developments also resulted in the formation of many new mining companies, and by the end of 1944 more than 100 companies or syndicates had acquired claims in the Yellowknife region or had an interest in their development.

Aerial transportation has developed into a major factor in the commercial life of northwestern Canada, and has assisted in the opening up of new mining areas. The construction of new landing fields at a number of the larger settlements in the