

Interest in quartz mining was stimulated by amendments made to the Yukon Quartz Mining Act which allowed for the grouping of 16 claims at any time before filing assessment work and granting of credit for excess work up to an amount sufficient to qualify for certificates of improvements.

The Mayo Mining District remained the centre of lode mining in Yukon. United Keno Hill Mines, Limited, was the largest producer of base metals, the bulk of its production coming from the Calumet-Hector Mine at Galena Hill. This company's production in 1948 was 1,684,595 fine oz. of silver and 4,332,431 lb. of lead. The Silver Basin Yukon Mines, Limited, a new company, reported satisfactory results from operations at Keno Hill and Galena Hill. Other active companies were the East Bay Mining Company operating at McKay Hill and Yukon Galena Hill Mines, Limited, operating at Keno Hill. In the Whitehorse District, the most active areas for prospecting and development work were in the vicinity of Whitehorse along the Alaska Highway between Teslin, the Liard River and the Hyland Plateau. Western Ranges Prospecting Syndicate, Noranda Mines, Limited, and Great Northern Exploration and Mining Development Company, Limited, carried on development work in this District.

Operations were continued at the Tantalus Butte Coal Mine near Carmacks and 1,535 tons of coal were produced and shipped during 1948.

A mining inspection service was inaugurated under the provisions of the Yukon Mining Safety Ordinance and an inspection of all important mining properties was carried out.

Surface leases and permits-to-occupy in effect Mar. 31, 1949, numbered 69 and 26 land sales were recorded; 179 timber permits and 19 commercial timber berth permits were issued.

The Department of Mines and Resources maintained 21 survey parties in Yukon during the summer of 1948, including 3 Geological Survey, 3 Geodetic Survey, 12 Topographical Survey, and 3 Legal Survey parties. Geological studies of the Whitehorse, Dezadeash, and McQuesten areas were continued and a detailed study of the geology and mineral deposits of Keno and Galena Hills was begun. Roads, mineral claims and private lots were surveyed, and 36 miles of the Yukon-British Columbia Boundary were located and monumented. Topographical Surveys covered over 27,700 square miles by photo-topographical methods for map publication. Parties from the Canadian Army Survey Establishment were also active, and the Royal Canadian Air Force continued its program of aerial photography to assist in mapping the territory.

Maintenance of the Alaska Highway passed from United States authority to the Northwest Highway System (Canadian Army) on Apr. 1, 1946, and restrictions on tourist travel were lifted early in 1948. The Lands and Development Services Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources provided five lunch stops and three overnight camp grounds during 1948 for the accommodation of the travelling public. In 1949 there were 10 overnight camp grounds which had been established by the Department along the Highway in Yukon.

The Federal Government agricultural station on the Alaska Highway, approximately 100 miles west of Whitehorse, continued operations in 1948. Winter varieties of wheat and rye sown in August, 1947, produced an excellent first crop in August, 1948. Poultry and a small herd of dual-purpose cattle were added to the farm stock.