

Subsection 1.—Federal Public Lands

Public lands under the administration of the Federal Government comprise lands in the Northwest Territories, including the Arctic Archipelago and the islands in Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay and James Bay, lands in Yukon Territory, Ordnance and Admiralty Lands, National Parks and National Historic Sites, Forest Experiment Stations, Experimental Farms, Indian Reserves and, in general, all public lands held by the several Departments of the Federal Government for various purposes connected with federal administration. The Dominion Lands Act, (R.S.C., 1927, c. 113) and the Ordnance and Admiralty Lands Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 58) were repealed in 1950, while the Territorial Lands Act (14 Geo. VI, c. 22) and the Public Lands Grants Act (14 Geo. VI, c. 19) were enacted to replace them and became effective June 1, 1950.

The largest land areas under federal administration are the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory amounting to about 1,458,784 sq. miles or 40 p.c. of the land surface of Canada. This part of the national domain, which is all north of the 60th parallel of latitude, is under the administration of the Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Resources and Development.

Recent Developments in the Northwest Territories.—The value of mineral production in the Northwest Territories in 1950 amounted to \$8,050,899 made up as follows: gold \$7,635,227, silver \$50,198, crude petroleum \$352,656, and natural gas \$12,818. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, 650 miner's licences and renewals and 1,023 quartz grants were issued, and assignments of mineral claims numbered 808. Record was made of 124 leases, comprising 6,617 acres, issued under the Quartz Mining Regulations. The mining inspection service was maintained under the Mines Safety Ordinance of the Northwest Territories.

X-ray diamond drilling was carried on in the Quyta-Giaque Lake area to evaluate the ore deposits. Prospecting and exploration, including 14,741 feet of diamond drilling, was conducted in the McKay-Courageous Lake region. The 490-foot shaft of an old property in the Indin Lake area was drained and 1,248 feet of underground development completed. Production of pitchblende concentrates continued in the Great Bear Lake area. Prospecting for uranium was carried on in the Hottah Lake and East Slave Lake areas and a 5,000-foot diamond-drilling program was begun at Stark Lake in the East Slave Lake area. Several claims were staked on the uranium-bearing ore located at Hottah Lake.

In 1951, a mine rescue station was opened at Yellowknife. The building includes a lecture room, storage for first-aid equipment, living quarters for the mine rescue superintendent and a double garage. The Department of Resources and Development provided \$26,500 for construction and \$8,500 for equipment and the mines assumed the balance of the construction costs and also maintenance expenses including the superintendent's salary.

During the 1951 season the Geological Survey of Canada, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, had eight field parties carrying on mapping in the Carp Lake, Christie Bay and Fort Reliance areas, in southern Baffin Island and on Cornwallis Island.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, 816 leases, licences, permissions to occupy, and agreements were in force, and 138 timber permits and 11 commercial timber berth permits were issued. The most important land transaction in 1951 was the transfer of 1,016 surveyed lots at Yellowknife Settlement to the Local Administrative District of Yellowknife, effective Jan. 6.