

British Columbia.—A very substantial increase in the amount of drilling in British Columbia in 1962 brought the total for the year to nearly 2,000,000 feet. The 1961 total, an all-time record at that time, was slightly more than 1,000,000 feet. Drilling in 1962 was divided almost equally between exploration and development. The province had a high success ratio in drilling, with 159 new oil wells and 62 gas wells compared with 93 dry holes. The large number of oil wells was mostly the result of intense development of the Boundary Lake field, where the number of oil wells capable of production was increased from 130 at the end of 1961 to 250 in December 1962. Considerable development was also carried out in several smaller fields, especially Milligan Creek, Peejay, Wildmint and Blueberry. In exploration, the most important results of the drilling were several large gas discoveries. Near Fort Nelson, the Slave Point formation yielded two particularly good gas producers known as the Yoyo and Junior wells. Nearer to Fort St. John, the Pink Mountain and Moberly Lake gas discoveries, producing from Mississippian and Triassic formations, respectively, were among the more noteworthy results of exploration work.

Saskatchewan.—Drilling in Saskatchewan has been declining since 1957, except for a brief upturn in 1961. In 1962, 580 wells (excluding service wells) were completed compared with 643 in 1961. However, a renewal of exploration interest in the province was reflected in a slight increase in footage drilled—which amounted to 2,350,000 feet—and a considerable increase in the number of deep exploratory holes. Several recent deep oil discoveries in the Williston basin in Montana and North Dakota have resulted in new attempts to find oil in lower Palæozoic rocks in the portion of the basin underlying southeastern Saskatchewan. The most important oil discovery in the province was probably one made near the Willmar field, 12 miles northeast of the Steelman field. The well was followed up with nearly a dozen wells in the same pool. The most active area in terms of development was once again the Dodslund field in the Coleville–Smiley region, although drilling there has decreased since 1961.

Manitoba.—Twenty-one wells were drilled in Manitoba in 1962 compared with 27 in 1961. A measure of the decline of oil exploration and development is obtained by comparing these figures with the peak period 1954–57 when more than 200 wells were drilled annually. Well footage in 1962 totalled 57,393 feet of which 40 p.c. was of an exploratory nature. Two oil discoveries were made in the southeastern corner of the province.

Yukon and Northwest Territories.—The eight wells completed in the territories, all exploratory, aggregated 54,000 feet, about three quarters of the 1961 footage. No important discoveries were announced. Three deep wells were being drilled in Yukon Territory in early 1963. The well-known Melville Island dry well was abandoned early in 1962 at a depth of 12,543 feet. Despite this failure, oil-company interest in the Arctic islands has remained strong, especially since mapping has revealed outcrops of oil-saturated sands on northwestern Melville Island, a discovery which removes doubt as to whether oil-forming conditions existed during the geological history of the region.

Eastern Canada.—In Ontario, more deep-well exploration and less shallow-well field development resulted in an increase in footage drilled, despite a pronounced decrease in the number of wells drilled; a total footage of 360,629 feet and 205 wells (excluding service wells) in 1962 compared with 344,816 and 253 wells in the preceding year. Exploratory drilling comprised 46 p.c. of the footage. Since the discovery of the Gobles field in Cambrian strata in 1960, greater emphasis has been placed on testing the lowest Palæozoic formations. In the field development sector, a pilot waterflood project was started in the province's most productive oil field, the Rodney field.

In Quebec, activity declined in the region around the Pointe du Lac gas field where a large number of shallow wells had been drilled in 1961. However, a deep hole of proposed depth of 4,500 feet was started late in 1962, and at about the same time a hole of similar anticipated depth was started on Anticosti Island. Two deep diamond drill holes, both dry,