

**Alberta.**—The Rainbow Lake region in northwestern Alberta continued to retain the interest of the exploration companies. The Middle Devonian Keg River reef fields discovered in 1965, although limited in areal extent, have excellent producing characteristics and high reserves. Commercial oil and gas production was also obtained from the overlying Middle Devonian Muskeg, Sulphur Point and Slave Point formations. By the end of 1966, twelve separate Keg River oil pools and one gas pool had been discovered in the Rainbow Lake district. The producing trend was extended to Zama Lake, 45 miles to the north, where oil was discovered in commercial quantities in a geological setting similar to that of Rainbow Lake.

The total number of wells drilled in Alberta during 1966 was 1,667, a drop of 14.6 p.c. from 1965. Total footage drilled was down 20 p.c. from 10,200,000 feet to 8,200,000 feet. Both development and exploratory drilling decreased in 1966 with development drilling down 30 p.c. from the 1965 total of 5,700,000 feet and exploratory drilling down 9 p.c. from 4,500,000 feet.

There were several Middle Devonian gas discoveries reported from northwestern Alberta in 1966 and there is also a considerable volume of gas associated with the oil occurrences in the area. Two of the most important gas discoveries were made at Bistcho Lake, 90 miles north of Rainbow. However, the proven reserves of gas from the general region are, thus far, not sufficient to justify the construction of a gas pipeline.

The \$240,000,000 Athabasca bituminous sands project of the Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited neared completion in 1966. The plant is scheduled to begin commercial production in September 1967 with the maximum allowable production rate set at 45,000 barrels a day. The first of two giant bucket wheel excavators was assembled at the site and was in production early in 1967. The two excavators will handle 100,000 tons of sand a day when fully operative. A 226-mile-long, 16-inch-diameter oil pipeline constructed from Fort McMurray to Edmonton to transport the synthetic crude production was completed in 1966.

**Saskatchewan.**—Although exploratory drilling continued at a high rate in 1966, development drilling declined 17 p.c., mirroring an over-all decline in the discovery rate during the past few years. Total drilling declined 6 p.c. to 4,270,000 feet in 1,168 wells. Exploratory drilling increased from 443 wells (1,621,479 feet) in 1965 to 531 wells (1,921,000 feet) in 1966. Development drilling in 1966 consisted of 637 wells (2,352,123 feet), considerably fewer than the 846 wells (2,939,000 feet) in 1965. Interest in the deeper horizons was revived by the discovery of commercial oil production in the Upper Devonian Nisku formations 90 miles south of Regina. Several small pools were discovered along the established Mississippian producing trend during the year.

**British Columbia.**—Exploratory drilling in 1966 increased 14 p.c. to 134 wells (687,000 feet) but development drilling was down 30 p.c. to 78 wells (345,000 feet) from 1965. The large decrease in development drilling reflected the general lack of major oil discoveries in recent years. The Inga pool, discovered in 1965 and originally classed as a gas field, was found to have an oil column associated with the gas. This field was rapidly developed as an oil field in 1966 and, although it is classed as a medium-sized pool, it is the most important oil discovery made in British Columbia for some time. Significant gas reserves have been indicated by exploratory drilling in the Beaver River area straddling the British Columbia-Yukon border. Should approval be received for additional gas exports to the United States, Westcoast Transmission Company's pipeline would be extended to serve the area.

Offshore, Shell Canada Limited carried out further marine seismic work prior to drilling a deep test on its extensive holdings off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Drilling was scheduled to start in the summer of 1967.

**Manitoba.**—The decline in activity that commenced in 1965 continued in 1966. Aggregate drilling amounted to 143,870 feet, down 12 p.c. from 1965. Most of the decrease