

# German Interests Look Before Acting In North

**By DAVE OANCIA**  
 Canadian Press Staff Writer  
 MONTREAL (CP)—West German steel interests are reported taking a hard, second look before agreeing to participate further in an iron mine development program in Canada's sub-Arctic.

It is understood the Germans have asked an independent New York firm of engineering and economic consultants to make an exhaustive study of a proposed project to mine iron ore in Quebec's Ungava region, 300 miles from the Arctic Circle.

The German interests own 50 per cent of a company carrying out exploration and pre-development work in the barren region, 900 miles north of Montreal. The other half of the company's stock is owned by interests of Cleveland industrialist Cyrus Eaton.

**HUGE INVESTMENT**  
 Authorities say that at least \$200,000,000 will have to be invested to bring into production a mine capable of producing 5,000,000 tons of iron ore annually at Hope Valley.

Industry sources say the study was ordered in an effort to determine whether or not ore supplies can be obtained more economically elsewhere before a commitment is made through a large investment to a single supply source.

The Ungava Iron Ores Company Limited, the organization owned by the Eaton and German interests, has developed methods to lick most of the technical problems involved in exploiting the huge deposits.

But the financial and marketing arrangements still must be ironed out.

**TRANSPORT PROBLEM**  
 The chief problem in the barren area on the northern shores of Quebec is not to find the ore, but to find a way of getting it out to markets economically. Resources in the area are estimated at more than 3,000,000 tons.

The staggering plans to graft a community onto the barren area for construction of a 25-mile railroad, a townsite for 2,000 persons, processing plants and a dock big enough to handle ocean freighters.

Motor transportation in winter will be the rule not the exception. This means that thought must be given to the maintaining of access by motor from the farm yard to the highway. While the ploughing of the snow to clear the path may seem to be the ready solution there may be others. Thought might be given to wind breaks, to home made snow blowers or to the packing of the snow rather than removal. It now appears certain that in the years to come that a great deal more must and will be learned about making motor and snow go together.

**FARM FORUM**  
 For this first series of the new year farm forum offers three topics devoted to a matter which was little heard of even as recently as two years ago but which is now occupying the attention of practically all thinking farm people, we refer of course to Vertical Integration. On January 5 the Farm Forum will discuss "Who Controls the Product? Will the farmer be a manager or a labourer?" Then on January 12 the topic will be "Who Writes the Contract? Is the farmer in a bargaining position?"

The final topic on January 19, "Who will hold the Reins? Will the farmer be in the

## AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

Custom and genuine good will prescribes that best wishes be extended at the beginning of the new year. We hope that everyone and our farmers in particular will have a most fortunate new year. Many will hope that their luck will be good, on that score we think the gentleman who said that he was a great believer in luck and found that the harder he worked the better his luck was, had a very good point.

In any event the new year is a time for making a fresh start, for trying to improve on the previous year's performance and for avoiding its errors. To all a most prosperous and happy new year.

**FARM PROSPECTS**  
 For the farm community 1959 will bring another seed time and another harvest. There will not be much guarantee of anything in the way of crops or prices. The farmer is, however, an incurable optimist. If he wasn't he wouldn't be farming because he must gamble his capital, energy and wit against the elements, pests, parasites and the vagaries of the market. He will know before he starts the new year that he has already produced in some instances a surplus of the products which he hopes to sell in the coming year.

He will realize that in many instances the harder he works, the longer the hours and the bigger the crop that the less

his financial returns will be. Nevertheless, no farmer ever planted a crop expecting anything but a bumper one. In a world where wages, living costs and his production costs continue to rise he will be forced to accept in some instances less money for his labour and produce and will at the same time see the urban consumer asked to pay more for these same products and in turn blame the farmer for the high cost of food.

However, in spite of these contradictions and numerous disappointments there is the satisfaction of working with nature as an operating partner, of seeing his crops develop, of watching the young livestock grow into mature animals. He will be much more conscious than his urban brother of the sunrise and the sunset, of the stars, of the rainbow and of the northern lights.

He will share with nature the remarkable release of energy that comes with the spring of the year, with the green grass, with the leaves on the trees and the satisfaction of working in the soil. He will be keenly aware of the summer heat, of the golden colours of the autumn and of the fall of the leaf which means that nature is once more giving notice that she plans on reducing activities during the winter months. All these and a thousand other intangibles go to make up the

### More Jobs

(Continued from page 3)

of these orders were for carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, office help. In many cases only one or two people were required, but on occasion, the office did receive orders from individual employers for as many as twenty men.

In 1957, 796 orders were received and in 1958, 854.

**FISHERMEN**  
 Early in the year, the office had to cope with approximately 1,000 more claims than the office had even handled before. These claimants were fishermen who became eligible for Unemployment Insurance for the first time last year.

The additional work arising from these claims imposed an extra burden on the office. Every driver's seat? These topics deal with the implications of the arrangements which more and more farmers are entering into with feed companies, packing houses and chain stores as operating partners in the production, marketing and retailing of farm products.

claim-has to be taken on a prescribed form, must be entered in the records, then must be examined and reviewed for errors, then adjudicated, and finally if passed, posted and set-up for payment.

**MILLION DOLLARS**  
 It is explained by employment officials, that very few people have any conception of the amount of work involved in setting-up a claim, and the care taken to handle all claims quickly, and with a minimum of errors. The office paid out more than one million dollars during the year to somewhat over 4,000 claimants.

Every year since the office opened, the total number of people drawing benefits has climbed steadily. It is apparent that this can be traced to a number of causes. It is clear, say local officials, that the number of people gainfully employed, is rising each year in the Province. One instance of this is the increased number of people employed in fish processing plants in Souris. Since the introduction of trawlers to that fishing centre two plants have been operating practically throughout the summer and autumn months, as well as during the lobster fishing season. As a result, more than 200 ex-

tra people obtained more or less steady employment in the Souris and adjoining areas. This is only one instance of how the number of gainfully employed is increasing from year to year in the Charlottetown Office area.

**MORE QUALIFY**  
 With the annual slow but steady increase in the working forces, more and more people have been able to qualify for Unemployment Insurance benefits. When seasonal unemployment develops each fall and winter, it follows, say local officials, that the number of people drawing benefits each winter gets larger.

At the end of February 1958, there was 2,668 people drawing benefits. One year later in 1957 the figure was 3,134, and in February 1956, the figure was 4,191. The big jump between February 1957 and 1958 of more than 1,000, was brought about by the inclusion under the coverage of the Unemployment Insurance Act of about 1,000 fishermen.

At the present time, December 29, 1958, about 3,400 people have filed claims and become eligible for payments. This figure is about 300 more than at the same time a year ago.

**FEBRUARY PEAK**  
 Mr. G.W. Cheverie supervisor of insurance of the local office, believes that when the peak of unemployment is reached some-

road maintenance each year or on wharf building, or other marine projects.

Mr. Murley further explained that for many years hundreds of people were unemployed, but there was no means of counting them or estimating their numbers in any way. But at the present time, every National Employment Office in Canada, knows from week to week how many people are unemployed, and can break them down into categories.

That is to say, from week to week every employment office knows how many plumbers, carpenters, mechanics, salesmen, domestics, painters etc., are unemployed. The figures he said are rather startling, but they probably would have been just as startling, if they had been compiled in 1910 or 1920.

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