

Alberta Indians Reap Profits From Booming Alta. Oil Industry

By DON HANDIGHT
Canadian Press Staff Writer
CALGARY, (CP)—Oil is pouring gold into the purses of Alberta's Indians.

Oil altered the picture—oil and operating on Indian-reservation timber and wheat lands have moved Indians of some tribes close to independence although they still are government wards.

WISE ADMINISTRATION

The federal government's financial responsibilities to the Alberta Indian have in some cases been reduced to education and a slim share of health and welfare. Even the old beef rations have been discontinued in some places.

Oil altered the picture—oil and the sagacity of tribal councils who refused to surrender treaty lands about 50 years ago and now are using their government-held funds for agricultural expansion and modern housing.

The 15,000 Indians of Alberta's nine tribes live on 71 reservations comprising approximately 1,400,000 acres. All but 274,883 acres was under oil and natural-gas leases or explorations permits last year.

They now have more than \$7,000,000 held in two accounts of Ottawa—nearly \$4,000,000 above the 1953 figure. This year, they are spending a total of \$1,544,600, seven times as much as last year.

The 23 producing oil wells on the Stony Plain reserve, 20 miles west of Edmonton, mean \$10,000 monthly for the Enoch band. The Enochs have a capital account of \$600,000, and the band's council distributes roughly \$20 a month to each of its 258 members.

BLOOD INDIANS PROSPER
The Blood Indians on Canada's largest reserve, stretching 40 miles southwest from Lethbridge, are probably more prosperous than any.

Their 358,000-acre reserve, once the centre of the Empire's largest wheat field, last year earned them \$358,000 from agricultural and grazing leases and 367,000 from exploration permits.

With a bank balance of \$663,000, the Bloods have established an ambitious ranching and housing development which eventually will provide them with probably the highest standard of living enjoyed by any Canadian Indian.

Mineral rights on all reserve land have been surrendered to the federal Indian affairs branch which negotiates all sales and rentals. No Indian can make a contract.

Oil companies cannot hold exploration permits on more than four sections—2,560 acres—of Indian reserve land. If they find oil or natural gas, they are entitled to lease not more than half the original exploration area. The other half can be taken up by another firm.

flow, the company pays royalties of 15 per cent on natural gas and 12½ per cent on oil.

RIGHTS COME HIGH

The price for exploration rights can be several thousand dollars for 160 acres. This summer, the Peigan reserve 35 miles west of Lethbridge received \$10 an acre for rights on almost 5,000 acres.

Last year, all this earned a total of \$860,000 for Alberta Indians.

The development is not confined to Alberta. In Saskatchewan, there are some 65 contracts covering 500,000 reserve acres, and roughly 50,000 acres are under contract in Manitoba and Ontario. Oil wealth has come, too, to some tribes in northeastern British Columbia.

The income is held in two accounts at Ottawa, earning five-per-cent interest. Into the capital account goes "surrendered capital assets"—mostly sales of mineral and timber rights and land.

The revenue account holds revenue from petroleum and agricultural leases and rentals, the sale of farm products, fish, furs and souvenirs.

The capital account is held in reserve at Ottawa and can be tapped only for certain permanent improvements.

The amount that comes out of a band's revenue account and what is done with it is the business of the reserve's council. However, the government does not allow the fund to be depleted.

James Mason To Give Up Career As Actor

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—James Mason announced Thursday he is giving up acting to devote his talents to writing and producing for his own company.

"I've always regarded myself as somewhat of a writer and producer," he said. "Acting never was my ultimate choice as a profession. I did it because the work came easily. Now I can enjoy the things I like more."

The 45-year-old Briton said he will confine his energies to his companies, Portland Pictures and Portland Productions, named after his daughter.

"I may act in some of the pictures myself," he remarked. "But I don't plan to act for anyone else. In the past, I've had to grasp film assignments that I otherwise wouldn't have done. Now I don't have to."

Mason and his writer-actress wife, Pamela, are said to be in a good position financially, having invested heavily in Beverly Hills real estate. It was reported that Mason earned \$400,000 from "A Star is Born" alone.

Mason said he will continue as host-narrator on Lux Video Theatre.

Canada's Males Died Faster Than Females In 1953

OTTAWA (CP)—Canada's males represented less than 51 per cent of last year's total population, but they accounted for almost 58 per cent of deaths.

Of the 127,381 who died last year, 73,417 were men and 53,964 women, the bureau of statistics reported Thursday.

Deaths among men outnumbered those among women in all age groups except 85 years and over, the bureau said.

It estimated that about 40 per cent of the men and 35 per cent of the women who died in 1953 were under 60 years of age, while 23 per cent of the men were more than 80.

Almost 19 per cent of all deaths

Considers French Vote Hopeful

OTTAWA (CP)—External Affairs Minister Pearson Wednesday termed as "hopeful" the French National Assembly's vote of confidence Tuesday in the government of Premier Mendes-France.

Mendes-France staked his government's life on the issue of German rearmament. However, the London pact aimed at rearming the Germans has not yet been ratified by France or any other nation involved.

Mr. Pearson made his comment to a reporter following a cabinet meeting at which he reported on the London conference. Canada is a signatory of the London pact.

were persons more than 80 years of age, 10 per cent were persons between one and 40 years and 12 per cent were infants under one year.

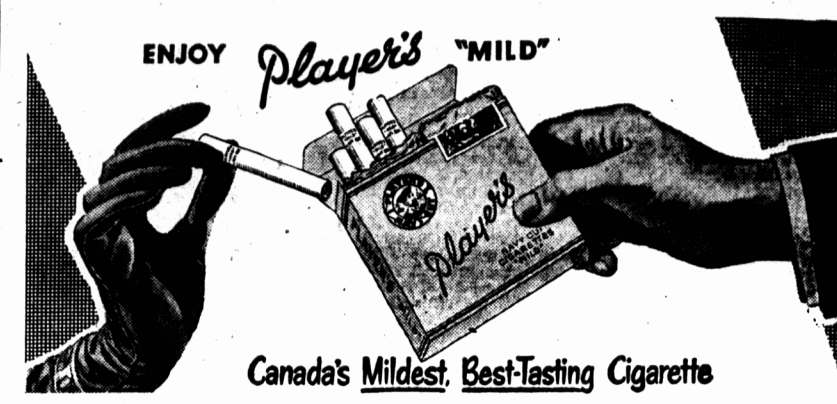
Sees Mulgrave Location For Pulp, Paper Mill

MULGRAVE, N.S. (CP)—Premier Henry Hicks says the provincial department of industry believes Mulgrave would be the proper location of a proposed pulp and paper mill "if and when certain factors are established."

The premier spoke briefly at a meeting Wednesday of the town councils and boards of trade of Mulgrave and Port Hawkesbury, the executive of the Antigonish-Guysborough-Inverness-Richmond Development Association and the Arichat board of trade.

Mr. Hicks said a report on the economic survey of the area now underway is expected before the end of the year and the people could depend on the government to seek a "proper solution" of the

problems facing the causeway mean loss of important railway towns when the Canso causeway is completed. Completion of the causeway will mean loss of important railway towns of Mulgrave and Port Hawkesbury.



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