

# Network Of Tunnels, Production Arteries

By JOHN WARREN SASKATOON (CP) — A network of tunnels that will some day be the backbone and complexity of a metropolitan subway is taking shape about 12 miles east of here, nearly two-thirds of a mile underground.

ous mining machine" operation underground and will have a redesigned surface plant and conveyor ready for production by the end of 1964.

But the tunnels will never accommodate a subway train. They comprise the production end of Saskatchewan's pioneer potash mine and a major part in the province's fastest-growing industry.

The province itself contains enough potash, an essential fertilizer constituent, to meet estimated world demands for 1,800 years.

With only one plant in production in 1963 (the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation mine near Esterhazy, 100 miles east of Regina), potash jumped into third spot in Saskatchewan's mineral industry according to value.

Three mines are scheduled for production within a year, including a new one between Regina and Moose Jaw, operated by Kallium Chemicals Ltd.

By that time potash production is expected to be the second most important mineral industry in the province at more than \$20,000,000 a year. In 1963 it ranked behind oil (\$160,000,000) and just below uranium (\$40,000,000).

More fascinating than its statistical climb as a major industry, however, is the link to potash mines. The one operated here by the Potash Company of America is among the world's modern in the world. It started production in 1958 and has been re-equipped since then.

**TUNNELS FAN OUT**  
For the trip underground the visitor dons white coveralls, rubber boots and a miner's helmet with a lamp. A three-minute descent in a torpedo-shaped elevator brings him to a well-lit roundabout from which several huge tunnels lead off in different directions.

Their walls, up to 15 feet high with a width of 20 feet, are completely within the glittering veins of salt and potash. Minute quantities of iron ore splash the crystal structure with red, giving the impression of some giant, Hollywood-conceived cavern of diamonds.

Drilling work that led to selection of this site for the mine began in 1951 and the major work of sinking and the mine went well under way three years later. Among the problems encountered was a fluid stratum under extremely high pressure, which threatened to cave in any shaft sunk by normal methods.

To overcome it a ring of 28 freezing wells was completed around the shaft and refrigeration was circulated for five months to form a huge underground column of ice through the shaft lining forced to shut down a year later.

**SHAFT CEMENT-LINED**  
In the spring of 1960 crews began forcing cement into the entire lining of the 1,300-foot shaft. The job took 2½ years. Since then the company has rebuilt and extended its "contin-

**BEDEQUE**  
Walter Craig, Middleton, fell from his barn roof and dislocated his shoulder. He is a patient in the Prince County Hospital.

Rev. E. S. and Albert J. Weeks, celebrated their 89th birthday on Aug. 20th. On this happy occasion they were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Henderson. The towns are in good health and active. They are both widowers. William Stavert, son-in-law of Albert, was also present as a dinner guest.

**PISQUID EAST**  
Mrs. Harold Jay was a visitor in Lorne Valley Monday. He is a guest of her sister Mrs. Earl MacDonald and Mr. MacDox.

George Dover was a visitor in Georgetown Monday. Clifford Aitken, Mount Stewart, was a visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay with sons Merlin and Irwin were visitors in Summerside Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jay with sons Donald and Eric and daughter Gloria, Charlottetown, were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Jay Sunday.

Mrs. Barbara MacGowan left recently for her home in Somerville, Mass., having spent her holidays with her sister and brother, Gladys and Chester Bietler. Mr. and Mrs. Hessel Corney, sons George and Marvin and daughter Thelma were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay.

Hannah Jay, Charlottetown, was a visitor at the home of her brother, George Jay and Mrs. Jay, Sunday.

Ethel MacDonald and Gordon Vasey, were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay.

Mrs. Harold Jay was a visitor in Charlottetown Monday.

By that time the bill for construction will have reached about \$40,000,000. At the peak of the construction program the work force is estimated at between 400 and 500 men.

Its highly mechanized underground operation involves rotary diggers that chew into the huge potash vein, feeding the raw product onto a network of heavy conveyors which will carry it to the bottom of the shaft. From there it will make the trip to the top in a 10-ton capacity elevator in less than a minute.

P. S. Jack, operations manager of the mine, said it would produce 600,000 tons of potash annually. Potash sells for more than \$20 a ton.

He added that production from the property would contribute significantly to the economy of Saskatchewan and of the province of Saskatchewan.

"Our work force will be close to 300 employees, with an annual payroll of approximately \$1,500,000. Estimated increased revenues for the railroads will amount to somewhat in excess of \$100,000,000 annually through shipment of our product."

Every day hundreds more shavers are switching from the old carbon-steel blades.

Last January stainless blades accounted for 30 per cent of Canada's total blades; by mid-summer they were getting 45 per cent of the market and by the end of this month about 53 per cent of all blades sold will be stainless steel.

By next summer, industry of the British firm that first introduced stainless blades, compelling established firms to follow, estimates total sales volume will be cut almost in half.

In 1963 Canadians bought about 193,000,000 blades, with only a small percentage of stainless blades included in the total.

This year, Mr. Day estimates, sales volume will be down to about 130,000,000 blades with a factory value of \$10,000,000. Next year, he says, sales will total only about 100,000,000 blades worth \$9,000,000 at the factory.

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Five companies now are offering stainless steel blades to Canada's 6,200,000 shavers. The latest entry in the race is a Japanese blade introduced in western Canada three months ago. Despite the lower dollar volume, there is one consolation for established blade makers—the new products appear to be fighting success fully against electric razors.

so popular, however, that public demand isn't giving manufacturers much choice.

The manufacturer who doesn't go after this market right now is just out of luck," Mr. Day says.

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## New Stainless Razor Blades Proving Successful Product

By KEN SMITH Canadian Press Business Editor TORONTO (CP)—The stainless steel razor blade is proving itself one of the most successful new consumer products to come along in decades.

In little more than a year the long-lasting blades have carved out half of a market that, before their advent, had been considered virtually impregnable.

Every day hundreds more shavers are switching from the old carbon-steel blades.

Last January stainless blades accounted for 30 per cent of Canada's total blades; by mid-summer they were getting 45 per cent of the market and by the end of this month about 53 per cent of all blades sold will be stainless steel.

By next summer, industry of the British firm that first introduced stainless blades, compelling established firms to follow, estimates total sales volume will be cut almost in half.

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