

TAXPAYERS FREQUENTLY ignore the pioneer who makes big public projects possible. And they have a tendency to overlook their own countrymen when major advances are made in science and technology. Probably, so far as Canada is concerned, this is because of saturation of public prints, television and radio with foreign news frequently in preference to our own. And probably this is one good reason why Canadian surveyors have become "forgotten men" when actually they are a vitally important professional corps, who have made brilliant and tremendously important contributions to national progress.

AMONG PROFESSIONALS, however,—engineers, construction leaders, government administrators and officials, and the like—the surveyor, almost unanimously, is recognized as the true pioneer and the true initiator of an overwhelming number of great public project successes. And he receives warm applause in many another technical and scientific field. "Accurate, reliable surveys can spell smooth operation and rapid progress," a professional engineer comments, "and bad surveys can destroy cost structures, provoke expensive litigation, hinder national development and frequently undermine public safety."

REVIEWING SURVEYING in Canada, PWIC found that Canadian Surveyors enjoy a reputation equal to, or better than, most other professionals. Indeed, the clamor for Canadian survey parties in many parts of the world has reached a new high. And in the field of electronic surveying, Canadians may be head and shoulders above and ahead of even the originators, the South Africans.

Many reasons can be given for widening the surveyor's sphere of influence, but eight chief points can be recited:

- 1—Permanent boundaries frequently are disputed provoking additional surveys at heavy cost.
- 2—Inaccurate measurement can disrupt whole projects at great cost.
- 3—A bad survey can upset engineering and architectural calculations to the point where human safety is placed in jeopardy.
- 4—In mapping, the ultimate in survey accuracy and reliability is desirable for obvious reasons.
- 5—Fast, reliable transportation systems depend largely on rigidly accurate surveys.
- 6—Communications frequently require continuing corrective surveys.
- 7—Space Age probes and missiles need accurate surveys to establish their tracking stations.
- 8—Oceanography requires a tremendous amount of accurate surveying.

CANADIANS HAVE MET all of these challenges and many more. They have made vast inroads on time, overcome tremendous obstacles and are forging ahead in mapmaking at an incredible pace.

But one of their mightiest achievements has been in the realm of electronics: their successes in the past four years depend largely on pioneering of the South African invention—the Tellurometer.

Federal, provincial and private surveyors now widely accept the "Micro-Distancer" or Tellurometer. The majority believe it to be one of the most useful pieces of equipment devised to date for mapping and distance measuring. Canadians have proven that for men in the field, the Tellurometer can mean elimination of much tedious work and supplies an accuracy far in excess of that previously possible. For mappers alone, it can mean speedy completion of jobs at greatly reduced cost.

ADVISING PWIC of Tellurometer successes throughout the world, officials of Highway Information Services, Washington, D.C., rated Canadian achievements in electronic surveying very high.

Said Duane L. Cronk, Director, HIS, in a letter:

"The Canadian surveyors have been the most adventurous users of the Tellurometer and have accomplished some rather dramatic feats with it. . ."

LEADERS OF THIS SURVEYING attack on Canadian development range from the head of Canada's Topographical Survey Branch, Ottawa, through the National Research Council and Provincial Land Surveyors, not to mention Hydro-Electric Commissions, to numerous firms of professional private surveyors.

Among them are counted Director S G Gamble, Federal Surveys and Mapping Branch; Federal Topographical Engineer E J Jones; Ontario Land Surveyor D H Richardson; Ontario Hydro Surveyor (Algoma) Harold S Wilde; National Research Council Physicist Dr. A G Mungall and many others.

Their work has had two major results:

- 1—Surveying times have been slashed in half.
- 2—Surveying costs have been sharply reduced all the way from 50 percent to 66.6 percent.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In terms of tax dollars this would mean possible savings to taxpayers on every public project where the Tellurometer is used of some 66.6 percent, or about 66 cents in each dollar. Generally, however, most observers appear to agree that a fair savings estimate could mean about 50 cents in the dollar.

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### ATIKOKAN VOTERS ELECT S. G. HANCOCK

After serving for the past eight years as Councillor, S. G. Hancock will next year take the reins as Reeve of Atikokan. In Monday's (December 5) municipal elections, Mr. Hancock defeated J. A. Johnson, former Reeve for five years, by a margin of 719 votes to 631.

Reported from Fort William by J. C. Kirkup.