Cassiar Asbestos Mine Sensational Discovery

40-Year Reserve of High-Grade Ore Estimated; 500-Ton Mill Installed

One of the most sensational mineral discoveries of recent years is located in northern British Columbia near the Yukon border and today is producing some of the highest-grade asbestos fibre in the world.

With more than 40 years of ore in sight, Cassiar Asbestos Corporation plans completion this year of a 500ton-a-day milling unit and installation next year of an aerial tramway 14,900 feet in length and capable of handling up to 100 tons an hour.

Exact location of Cassian Asbestos is at McDame Creek, 70 miles south of Watson Lake airport and the Alaska Highway; latitude 59:17 north, longitude 129:15 west.

prospected as early as 1870mainly for placer gold-it was not until 1949 that asbestos surface showings drew attention of the mining world.

EARLY ACCESS

from Wrangell, Alaska, via the at this stage was 5.892,000 tons Stikine River to Telegraph of \$30 per ton ore. Creek, then by trail or road to PRODUCTION the head or south end of Dease Lake. From this point, barge or river boats were used along Dease Lake and on the Dease River, past McDame Post to Lower Post at the junction of the Dease and Liard Rivers.

The Liard flows into the Mackenzie River. This route was followed by early Indian and white traders and later by trappers and prospectors.

Highway, east-west through the northern fringe of the area in 1942-43, and location of the Watson Lake airport a year earlier, afforded means travel.

R. L. Kirk and H. H. Nelson, f.o.b. point of sale. mechanics at the Army main- CONSTRUCTION tenance camp at Fort Nelson, B.C., and R.W. Kirk, a trapper

In 1949, Sittler became aware of the asbestos showing in the McDame Lake area and the following year staked a group of seven claims. Later, the same year, Conwest Exploration Company acquired an option on these claims and staked others.

LIKE SADDLE

40 claims.

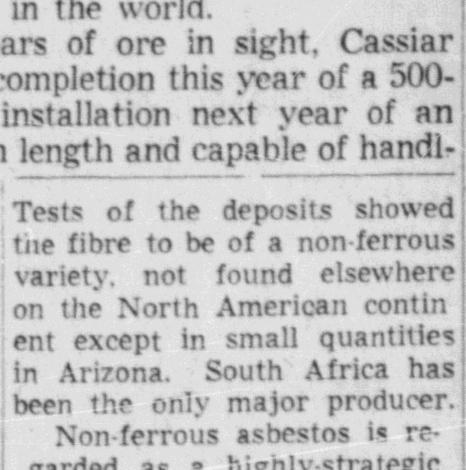
consisting of lower argillites house and a curling rink. and shales overlain by limestone, which in turn is over. NEW ROAD fibre chrysotile asbestos, and deposit."

tion across the mountain top, tion of which this fall will prothe main asbestos showing vide facilities for semi-trailer occurs at an elevation of about operations and elimination 6,000 feet. Fibre-bearing out- load transfers at the Alaska crops occur over a length of Highway to larger and more 3.000 feet.

sides, is a saddle-like mantle of providing direct access to a ashestos talus-the result of Canadian seaport from Stewfrost action which penetrated art to McDame Lake via Telethe asbestos seams and freed graph Creek, is under study the sides of the hill to create of an existing road between living quarters. an area containing a conserva- Telegraph Creek and Dease | Known as Upper Whitehorse, the famed Nahanni or "Headtive estimate of 280,000 tons.

represents the underlying de- a good future. quality.

tion Limited was formed on townsite, Cassiar Asbestos will that would make the 1898 gold-May 17, 1951, and took over the be well established as a new claims from Conwest. The same and profitable industry for year a road was completed into northern B.C.," says J. D.



the fibre to be of a non-ferrous variety, not found elsewhere on the North American contin ent except in small quantities in Arizona. South Africa has Although the area has been been the only major producer. Non-ferrous asbestos is re-

garded as a highly-strategic Test milling and spinning of

samples indicated a grade of 7½ per cent 3K fibre, plus an undetermined amount of 4K Early access to the region was fibre. The indicated tonnage

In view of the substantial ore reserves and excellent results from tests, plans were made to put the company on a production rate of 500 tons a day by fall of 1954. Additional equipment was installed immediately to permit milling of asbestos talus at 225 tons a day.

By the end of the 1953 mining year, 73,257 tons of ore had been stockpiled at the mill. New Construction of the Alaska estimates indicated 7,032,625 tons of reserve ore, grading that was made of real cement; son. approximately \$38.75 a ton.

Meanwhile, the stockpiled ore is being marketed to customers around the world. Sacked in of access to the general area | 100-pound bags, the fibre is that were amenable to mod- trucked in company vehicles to ern forms of transport and Whitehorse, a distance of 350 miles along the Alaska High Following the Second World way. From there it is shipped War, a group of four men fin- by rail to Skagway via the anced prospecting in the North- White Pass and Yukon route, west Territories and northern thence by Canadian Pacific B.C. They were V. A. Sittler, Steamships to Vancouver, the have sped."

A heavy construction program was undertaken recently at the Cassiar millsite, including a new dryer and dryer building, crushing plant, mill extension and a 40,000-ton dry moving in the past few years, dusty gravelled streets, no sewrock storage building. A new anything can happen in the next ers, no water system. machine shop was erected and two." * creased to 950 horsepower.

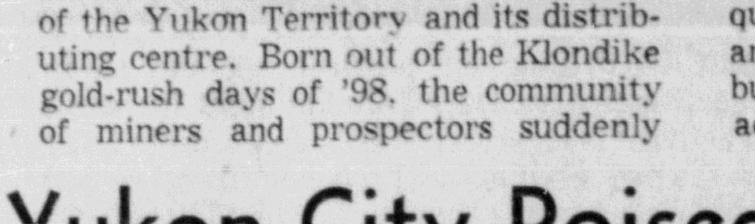
houses, a recreation hall and potential nearby. The property now consists of school, a 30-man staff house, five three-bedroom houses, five The rocks underlying the two-bedroom houses, a steam claims are mainly sedimentary, plant and laundry, a new cook-

lain by quartite. Intruding the Cassiar Asbestos credits the across the river. We haven't sediments along the valley "co-operation and far-sighted floor is a porphyritic granite policies" of the provincial gov- now." and basic rock. This latter ernment as having "contributed rock now altered to serpentine, largely to the comparatively contains many veins of cross- rapid development of this ore

takes the form of a dike, vary- In particular, the company ing in width from 200 to 600 cites the construction of a firstclass road from the Alaska Striking in a northeast direc. Highway to the mine, compleeconomical trailer units.

Overlying this dike, on both Meanwhile another road.

Cassiar Asbestos Corpora further development of the the deposit from Lower Post. Christian, company official.



WHITEHORSE CITY, right on the

banks of the Yukon River, is the capital

swelled to a teeming city of 50,000 during World War II when it was head quarters for U.S. and Canadian army and air force contingents. Many of the buildings in the foreground were service accommodation.

Yukon City Poised on Threshold Of Major Development Program.

going to vote 'yes' on that by-

Whitehorse is going through

corporated in 1952, businessmen

and home - owners screamed

greatly improve sport-fishing.

This year may see a record

U.S. government laboratories

Dawson Creek.

year for homes.

a skyscraper loomed above me "First I take a bath, then my where once I remembered a husband uses the same water tent. . . I thought that I'd cross for his bath, We save that water the Yukon over the big steel for the laundry next day, then bridge; I heard the roar of the use it to wash the floors. stamp mills upon the western "Believe you me, I'm sure

So wrote Robert Service, bard of the Yukon, in 1906 when he described, "This is my dream of Whitehorse when 50 years

Today, not quite yet 50 years later, there are the sidewalks, and the rushing automobiles, but the "skyscrapers" are still limited to three storeys. Local citizenry, however, is optimistic:

"The way things have been

ing to Whitehorse Mayor George Mayor Armstrong cited the new ways. Armstrong, who says:

"Only feasible answer to make more land available is to expand Peace River Area got a single vacant lot for sale Home of Record

Since becoming the capital of Big Game Trophies Yukon two years ago, White-horse has seen a minor realty Millions of acres of partly exboom. Although building costs plored or totally unexplored are high-about \$2,500 a room-country lying adjacent to the numerous new residences have Peace River area of British Cobeen erected recently.

Although a new subdivision is being made available by the hunting and fishing in the world. Canadian Army moving some Notable among the hunting quarters to upper Whitehorse, areas are such districts as the it is not expected to completely Cassiar and Phrophet River relieve the present housing de which today are considered to

mand of close to 7,000 people. Whitehorse borders the east hold most of the world record banks of the Yukon River and trophies in sheep, goat, grizzly stretches to the limits of the bear and moose. narrow two-mile-long valley. Cut Jumping-off place for hunters the fibre from the rock. It by the government. Surveys banks rise sharply to a 300-foot entering these areas are Dawson varies in depth from one to 10 were completed last year of high plateau on which is located Creek. Fort St. John and Fort feet and has spilled over on the route, which makes use the airport and national defence Nelson. The latter is the main

the area includes several mod-less" Valley. All the evidence available But regardless of a new coast ern settlements of air force and suggests that this material truly outlet, Cassiar believes it has army married living quarters.

But while businessmen and posit, both as to grade and "With completion of the new mining officials hold that the mill and aerial tramway and Frobisher hydro project will awaken the Yukon to a boom rush era seem like peanuts, the thought that Whitehorse itself may be wiped out by such a development doesn't worry

"It probably won't happen in our lifetime," they say.

The Frobisher plan to utilize the 10.000,000-horsepower hydro potential to its fullest includes are available throughout the damming of the Yukon River north of Whitehorse for the final Besides big game, the area development stage. Such a dam surrounding the Peace teems would make a lake out of the with such furbearing animals as present city site.

Meanwhile, as surveyors al. weasel, mink, fisher, otter and ready are starting on their muskrat, and is the greatest second year of exploring the fur-producing area in the watershed area, a \$2,000,000 province. federal government building is While cyclic, there is usually nearing completion.

And city voters are facing a chicken, ruffed and spruce by-law asking them to approve grouse. Migratory birds, includa \$1,000,000 loan from the Ter-ing the Canada goose and variritorial government for installa- eties of ducks, are of the best tion of a water and sewer grain-fed quality. system.

Most of Whitehorse is still not Record Year for served by such facilities. Outdoor privies are general and Mosquito Fight water for all purposes is bought by the barrel or by the bucket. Still, there is opposition to campaign in the fight against

mosquitoes. the million-dollar loan. Oldtimers feel that privies are still have developed a new organic good enough for the raw Yukon phosphorus compound called and water by the bucket can be EPN as a substitute for the tolerated for some years yet. well-known insect killer. DDT. Majority of new city residents, First introduced in 1945, DDT however, heartily endorse the has made malaria-caused by proposed systems which will the bite of the female mosquito give them up-to-date plumbing. (anopheles quadrimaculatus)-One housewife explained:

a rare disease in this country. "We get two deliveries of 45 But in some areas mosquitoes gallons of water each week, are building an immunity to There are four of us living in insecticide. our house. In order that we can Local communities also are have a bath once a week, do the busy combatting the insect. cooking, we have to cut a lot of to spend \$10,000,000 this year.

"I tottered along the sidewalk, corners," said Mrs. Robert John- was built in two months by volunteer labor, donated money and equipment.

ture was only \$20,000.

public subscription.

about taxes. They went up from major Yukon city born out of \$15 to \$1,500 a year for busi- the fabulous gold-rush era and nesses, and from \$5 to \$100 a reborn during the Second World War when 50,000 persons swellother hike in taxes, or they'll are doubtful. It forms a major industry. have to remain satisfied with topic of their daily conversation. One thing, however, appears

certain. Whether or not the But high living costs and taxes Frobisher plan becomes a realdiesel electrical installation in- Faint rumblings of smelters does not seem to deter Yukon ity, Whitehorse is a growing agement's responsibility and we are growing louder with each generosity and community distributing centre for the deep The company townsite was new proposal to develop the spirit, says Mayor Armstrong. north. It is the terminal of a started with five 30-man bunk- 10,000,000 horsepower hydro "I don't think you can find railroad to the coast at Skag. Strong Kick Test anywhere on the continent way, a major air-route centre, The Yukon River bridge, too, where people will chip in for the and cross-roads for the Alaska, For Lightning Rod may not be too far off, accord- common good like they do here." Dawson City and Mayo highhockey and curling rink which

oping mines which we supply to test the ground rods of their is reason enough to believe lightning protection systems. Whitehorse is due for long-term Frank Andrew, a University prosperity." sums up Mayor of Illinois rural electrification Armstrong.

Of Management

ing Company.

To Explore

been planned by Brikon En

plorations Ltd., a new company

recently formed by Transcontin-

ental Resources Ltd. of Van-

are a number of eastern com-

panies including Dome Mines,

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Research Ltd., Saphire Petrol-

eums, and Yellowknife Bear

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in Whitehorse, also operate

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at 60-mile creek near Dawson

which produced close to half a

million dollars worth of gold in

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tinental are Noland Mines Ltd.

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mine at Atlin, and Polaris Taku

gold mine at Taku. The Taku

mill and plant are under rental

to Consolidated Mining & Smelt-

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TORONTO-Accident preven tion in industry should be left in the hands of management and not handed over to government, states J. Gerald Godsoe, first national vice-president of the Canadian Chamber of Com-

Mr. Godsoe cites Ontario's ex-The campaign began a week cellent record as evidence of after the community arena how the employer had accepted burnt down one October night, the responsibility of accident The new rink is valued at \$100, prevention and had been per 000 and actual cash expendi- mitted to discharge his obliga-

Whitehorse citizens are also Mr. Godsoe referred to recent painful period all around, building a new hospital, funds suggestions that a better job of First, when the city became in. for which are being obtained by accident prevention could be done if it were the responsibility What the future holds for the of government instead of that of industry. Since the matter may be brought up in the legislature at a future session, the Ontario government had re-Now they are faced with an ed its limits, present-day citizens cently asked for the views of

"Our governments now have ACE-TEX SHINGLE more than enough to keep them busy," Mr. Godsoe said, "Safety cannot be legislated; it is man-

A strong kick is recom-

"That feature and the devel- mended to farmers as one way

specialist, said the rods often

Brikon Formed rust off a few inches below the protection system is only as ground. They may look solid, good as the ground rods and but they wouldn't do the job if recommended a %-inch rod they don't go down eight feet, eight feet long. Northern Ore

"Give the ground rod a kick," connection between the cable An extensive program of Andrew advised. "If it's badly and the ground red. He said mineral exploration for 1954 has rusted it will break off." cattle often rub on the cable He added that the lightning and break the connection

Another point to check is the

PATTERN FOR BETTER BUILDING

and enduring satisfaction

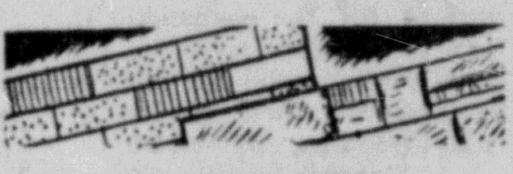
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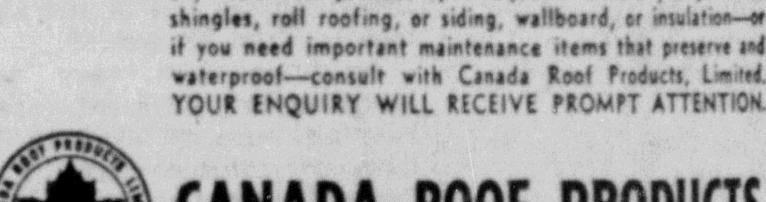
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Aluminum, asbestos, copper . . . these are the materials in the news today-Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Cassiar and Stewart . . . some of the fabulous names.

One of Canada's very first giant strides into northern territory was taken a little over 50 years, ago. It was the fabulous Klondyke gold-rush of 1898.

That same year, the British Bank of North America - which later became part of the Bank of Montreal-opened the first bank in the Yukon, bringing a banking service to the prospectors at Dawson. Since then, the B of M - Canada's pioneer bank - has opened seven branches in Northern B.C. and the Yukon. Today it also has branches at Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Terrace, Stewart, Whitehorse, Prince George and Dawson Creek.

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enough left for drinking and control districts are preparing working we have to cut a lot of to spend \$10,000,000 this year.

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