Such a predicament faces them now. No new markets to loot. No new populations to exploit. They must adapt themselves to the ordeal of making the best they can out of what they have.

The dismal profits paint the social picture with shaded lines, sombre and heavy colors, and misty background. The men of action then take over and try to straighten things out so that future investments may be blessed with that unearned increment.

The disciples of Malthus insist that the soil at present utilized for food production is all that there is. Man must learn to get along with it just as the lion and elephant do in the jungle. There is no possibility of stretching it beyond the present limits. As they claim it takes 2½ acres to provide the daily meals for each adult, the prospects would be anything but right.

Others' Views

But, along come the engineers and scientists prepared to show the other side of the dietary shield. To them, man has little in common with the wild life of the jungle when it comes to adapting himself to an arbitrary food supply. They explain that, while virgin soils vary widely in nature and fertility, once they come within the bounds of cultivation, they are subject to the dynamic influence of modern man. Those experts point out that while just about one-half of the earth's surface is totally unfitted for producing food, the other half has fair, good, or excellent possbilities for production. As only about seven per cent of the earths' surface is in use today, this would leave a wide margin for future expansion.

While the pessimists declare that the washed-off topsoil is gone forever, and cannot be replaced, the scientists refute the contention, and prove by their experiments with fertilizers and crop rotation that new topsoil can readily be remade that is at least equal to what was washed away.

Another Neo-Malthusian dogma relates that the productivity of the earth's soil has reached its pinnacle, and is falling back over the cliffs. That soil mining, erosion, and exhaustion, have taken a terrible toll, and things can never be the same again.

Again the scientists counter with the claim that, while much good soil was destroyed in the past, since the engineers have taken the problem over, they have managed to reverse the downward trend, and that the soils are now better on the whole than they have been for several years.

Capitalism, awakened by the danger signals displayed by the dismal predictors, is attempting a comeback in the field of agricultural science. To a degree, success in the venture can be measured. But, no matter what increases are registered in national production, the fact remains that the benefits accruing go completely to the class in control.

Socialism, alone, with its program for converting the means of production into an agency for supplying the needs of all human being, can solve the social problem that is facing the peoples of the world today.

J. A. M.

Canadian Boom

Canada's industrial boom is commanding considerable attention these days. The international rearmament demands on production, including a three-billion dollar "National Defense" program, is fostering a feverish pace of industrial development. The industrial progress of the country had previously been stimulated by two world wars. But the amount of American capital entering Canada in the last few years far exceeds the accumulated imports of decades and the total Ameican investment now stands at double the figure of 25 years ago and is in the proportion of about one seventh of the national capital. This year the flow of investment has assumed the magnitude of a veritable flood, and is increasing by the month, so much so in fact that the Canadian dollar is now at a premium with the American dollar. Some British and European capital is also finding its way into the country.

A great proportion of all this capital has been attracted by the expanding discoveries of immense oil and mineral deposits, including tremendous reserves of iron ore but water power, pulp and paper, aluminum and synthetic textiles etc. are also the magnet for huge aggregates.

From the Pacific to the Atlantic, and the 49th Parallel to the Arctic, specialized industrial forces are on the march, heedless to hardship in obedience to their masters' demands for profit. Preceded by scout patrols of surveyors, geologists and the ever-present prospectors, and often dependent entirely on air transportation, the wilderness is being plotted, examined, tested, and generally wooed in a hectic endeavor to relieve it of its potential treasures. When reports appear to justify it, the signal is given for the main task force and before many weeks or months.

ACTIVITY

The earth is subjected to an onslaught of activity as it is mauled by bulldozers, drills and dynamite, and gouged, picked, drilled and blasted, not to mention the boring into the vitals of a rocky mountain or two and its disembowelment with ten mile tunnels. Steel production is in process of expansion; rail lines extended and new ones in consruction, while highways are being rushed to junction with others or to provide access to new areas of activity. Great oil and gas pipeline projects through the mountains from Alberta are underway to bring those vital commodities to the Pacific coast where millions are being invested in new refineries to process them. The readily available source is responsible for the birth of secondary industries to utilize them. In B.C. a gigantic new aluminum industry is being built which will alone entail an eventual estimated outlay of hundreds of millions of dollars.

And amidst this orgy of construction how many stop to reflect that it is the means of preparation for an orgy of destruction? It is an ironic commentary on modern society that the development of the very means to sustain life is a cause of the eventual periodic obliteration of life in wholesale quantities. In the grim equations of Capitalism, the war breeder, a hole in the ground can be translated into a future hole in the head for the diggers.

U. S. INFUENCE

Although Canada was colonized at about the same time as the U.S., its proximity to that country and the complex pattern of geographic, climatic and political factors decreed early that the country must fall behind the pace of economic development set by its Southern neighbor. Once this relative economic ascendancy made itself felt, this became in turn, a further condition affecting Canada's economy.

Nevertheless, despite this lag, the course for Canada's development has many parallels with that of the industrial colossus below the 49th, being subject to the same laws of capitalist accumulation. But the factors referred to determined a slower rate of population growth and influenced a slower rate of industrialization.

The recent wave of immigration approaches those of the Twenties in dimension and is increasing a population which as yet only numbers around 14,000.000. The majority of the population in the 19th century was engaged in agriculture but by 1921 only one third of the working force were so employed, although about 5% of the population lived in rural communities, and in 1951 only about one fifth of those employed were occupied in agriculture.

In the year 1900 manufactured commodities were estimated as being worth $231,000.000 and double the price of the 1870 product. For 1950 the figure given for the price of