

The various Government agencies have stimulated production of the major non-ferrous metals—copper, nickel, lead and zinc, as well as tungsten, molybdenum, chrome, mercury, mica, arsenic, fluorspar, graphite and cobalt. Six of these—mercury, tungsten, chrome, molybdenum, muscovite mica and fluorspar—were not produced in quantity in Canada before the War.

From 1923 to 1939 Canada produced no recorded output of iron ore. In 1937 the rebuilding of surface equipment was started at the Helen Mine in the Michipicoten District of Ontario, and aided by an Ontario Government subsidy a substantial output is being mined. One of the biggest iron-ore developments in Canadian history was begun in 1943 at Steep Rock Lake, west of Port Arthur, Ontario. The undertaking is being privately financed with assistance from various governments. The Federal assistance takes the form of a subsidy on the movement of some ore, plus a loan of \$2,000,000 to the Canadian National Railways to build an ore dock and trackage. This advance is to be repaid out of production.

Petroleum development has been stimulated by the Oil Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply in co-operation with the Department of Mines and Resources, and by a Crown company, Wartime Oils Limited, operating under the direction of the Control. The Company has assisted financially in the exploitation of a number of wells in the west flank of the Turner Valley and the Oil Control has investigated other possible sources.

Still another Government agency, the Emergency Coal Production Board, operating in co-operation with the Coal Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply, has extended financial assistance to coal operators with a view to increasing production. The Dominion Fuel Board for nearly two decades has maintained a close study of the coal-mining industry and has administered various measures of governmental assistance; this Board and its staff are operating under the Coal Control for the duration of the War.

To conserve petroleum and coal gas for war production, the Power Controller of the Department of Munitions and Supply issued a series of orders from February to September, 1942, which caused thousands of owners of buildings, including dwellings, to switch from gas to coal for heating and steam production.

## Subsection 2.—General Statistics of Mineral Production

**Historical Statistics.**—Definite records of the annual value of mineral production go back only to 1886, although actual production began with the earliest settlements. The figures given in Table 1 are not strictly comparable throughout the whole period, minor changes having been adopted in methods of computing both the metallic content of ores sold and the valuations of the products. Earlier methods resulted in a somewhat higher value than those now in use would have shown. However, the changes do not interfere with the general usefulness of the figures in showing the broad trends in the mineral industry.