

of minerals. The huge scale production by Canadian industry of the munitions of war—a production that was exceeded only by three other Allied countries—could not have been undertaken otherwise. Because of this strong position as a mineral producer, the Dominion was able to supply the Allied countries with a large share of their needs for such metals and minerals as nickel, copper, lead, zinc, mercury, asbestos and mica. Throughout the War, for instance, Canada supplied 80 to 85 p.c. of the Allied nickel requirements. From the mines in the Eastern Townships of Quebec came most of the asbestos used by the Allied countries. From imported ore was produced sufficient aluminum to supply, during a considerable portion of the War, close to 40 p.c. of the Allied needs for that metal. That the mineral industry gave of its best is amply borne out by its production record, and this in spite of the restrictions that were necessary in an all-out effort—restrictions such as the dislocation of labour, the loss of men due to enlistments, the difficulties of obtaining supplies, etc. The gold industry suffered the most, but it gladly co-operated by helping to man the base-metal and other industries.

In reference to the production record, the Minister has stated that during six years of war Canada produced nickel, copper, lead and zinc to a total value of more than a thousand million dollars. Canadian mines produced approximately 810,000 tons of nickel, 1,800,000 tons of copper, 1,600,000 tons of zinc, and 1,300,000 tons of lead. The Dominion exported over 76 p.c. of this total output. At the request of the United Kingdom, Canadian producers of copper, lead and zinc agreed in the early weeks of the War to supply that country with their surplus output of the three metals at the then prevailing prices. Certain minor upward adjustments were permitted under the terms of the agreement, but the adjusted prices were well below those that could have been obtained in the open market.

To meet the needs for the non-ferrous base metals, plant facilities had to be greatly extended. Production rates soon increased well beyond those of the peak pre-war years and, as a further measure of assuring that needed supplies were made available, the production of civilian goods requiring the use of metals in their manufacture was greatly curtailed and in some cases eliminated.

One of the greatest accomplishments on the Canadian industrial front during the War was in the production of aluminum. From a pre-war annual production of less than 29,750 tons of primary metal, the output increased to 340,500 tons in 1942, and reached a peak of 495,600 tons in 1943. This compares with a peak output of only 12,100 tons during the War of 1914-18.

Every effort was made in the early years of the War to encourage the production of gold. This continued until about the end of 1941, in which year production reached a peak, and by which time a much greater need had developed for the production of other metals and minerals. From then onward there was a steady decline in the output of the metal though, despite this decline, Canada produced gold to a total value of close to \$952,000,000 during the war years.

Within a few months of the commencement of the War, critical situations began to develop in the supply of the ores of the alloying metals, tungsten, molybdenum and chromium, and it became a matter of endeavouring to supply the needs from