

domestic sources. In due course, with Government financial assistance and other aid, the problem was largely overcome, and a supply shortage that threatened to endanger a major part of the Dominion's war production program was surmounted.

As in the case of the metals, Canada drew heavily upon her wealth of non-metallic minerals. In furtherance of her war effort the Dominion produced a total of 106,000,000 tons of coal valued at \$378,000,000; close to 2,600,000 tons of asbestos valued at \$124,900,000; 57,800,000 bbl. of crude petroleum, 5,500,000 tons of gypsum, and 3,700,000 tons of salt. The production of clay products and other structural materials reached a total value of \$269,000,000. The wide range of production also included sodium sulphate used in copper-nickel refining processes; fluorspar, used in the manufacture of steel; brucite, from which basic refractories used for the lining of metallurgical furnaces are made; and high-quality mica, indispensable for electrical and other uses. In addition, such minerals as graphite, nepheline syenite, barite, rock wool, quartz, talc, limestone, and sulphur were produced.

For several of the minerals, however, production was far from sufficient to meet requirements, the major shortages being in crude petroleum and coal and, though it was used in much smaller quantities, cryolite should also be included because of its vital use in the production of aluminum. On the opposite side of the ledger can be credited Canada's large exports of asbestos, gypsum, barite and mica, and lesser though important amounts of sodium sulphate, nepheline syenite and other minerals.

From the commencement of the War until 1943, when a peak was reached in the output of munitions, practically every unit of production in the mineral industry was operated at or near capacity. At several of the larger mines, because of the urgent need for production and the shortage of labour, underground development work had to be steadily curtailed, and in some cases it was discontinued. Within a year and a half of the commencement of the War almost every ton of metal and mineral produced was diverted to war use or to essential civilian use, and there was little relaxation of these restrictions until near the end of hostilities. The industry's widespread and diversified operations were so planned and directed that the Dominion's war industries were assured of a maximum supply of mineral raw materials with a minimum of delay in making them available. In net result Canada was enabled to expand her war industries virtually without limit other than that governed by the needs of the situation.

The Present Outlook

Long before the War had ended, the matter of the industry's outlook in the post-war years was engaging the attention of those concerned with its welfare. Already mining had shown a remarkable growth, but this growth was more evident in annual production figures than in an increase in physical assets as represented by the disclosure of new sources of mineral supply. The high rate of depletion of known reserves during the War only served to accentuate this feature. The fact that the known reserves of most of the principal metals are large was comforting knowledge only to the extent that there was no particular cause for concern for the next several years. The wasting asset angle can never be overlooked, however, in an industry like mining, and it was recognized that every effort would need to be made to stimulate prospecting and exploratory activities. Such efforts, it is generally agreed, should be continuous in nature and should form part of a long-range mineral policy.