

Current Production.—Higher market prices for most metals and record outputs of fuels, structural materials and other non-metals brought the value of Canada's mineral production in 1947 to \$619,100,000, a gain of 23 p.c. over the corresponding total for 1946, and 9.2 p.c. over the former high figure established in 1942. Record output values were realized for the major base metals, although tonnages were, on the whole, considerably below those obtained in the war years. Also, the continuing demand for building materials and for asbestos, gypsum, barytes and other non-metallics enabled operators in these fields to reach new highs in tonnages as well as values.

In the past sixty years, Canada's mineral industries have recovered more than \$12,000,000,000 of new products with approximately 42 p.c. of this coming in the past decade. Annual figures are shown in Table 2. In 1886, the Dominion's mineral output was only \$10,200,000, but in 1900, four years after the discovery of gold in the Yukon, the value was up to \$64,400,000. With the development of silver properties at Cobalt after 1903, and with increased production of nickel and copper at Sudbury, the total value of output advanced steadily to \$106,800,000 in 1910. Then came the discovery of gold in the Porcupine district of Ontario, followed a few years later by those in Kirkland Lake, also a satisfactory method of treating the refractory ores of the great Sullivan mine in British Columbia, and these factors, along with higher prices because of the First World War, brought the value of mineral recoveries to \$227,900,000 in 1920. Severe price declines reduced the output value to \$184,300,000 in 1922, but in the following years there was steady improvement to \$310,900,000 in 1929. The Noranda smelter which treats of copper-gold ores came into production in 1927, the Flin Flon zinc smelter began operations in 1930, and the increase in the price of gold in 1931 encouraged the search for and development of new gold properties. By 1939 mineral output was up to \$474,600,000, and the all-out activities in the early years of the Second World War raised production in 1942 to \$566,800,000, a value which was not surpassed until 1947.

The value of metals in 1947 at \$389,500,000 was \$99,100,000 greater than in 1946. This was not quite up to the record total of \$395,300,000 in 1941, nor to the 1942 figure of \$392,200,000. Values for copper, lead, zinc and nickel were at all-time peaks, but these gains were more than offset by the level of gold production which was only about one-half of the 1942 figure.

Output of structural materials was greater than in any previous year, the 1947 value of \$72,700,000 being nearly 10 p.c. above the 1946 total. Shipments of cement, lime, brick and other clay products, stone and sand and gravel were, in each case, greater than ever before.

Value of fuels as a group, at \$105,200,000, was \$2,600,000 greater than in 1946. The tonnage of each was down, but the total value was increased substantially. The reverse was true for crude petroleum which was slightly higher in quantity but a bit lower in value.

Other non-metallics showed a substantial advance to \$51,700,000 from \$43,700,000 in 1946, the chief gain being in asbestos which increased from \$25,200,000 to \$31,800,000. Gypsum also showed a substantial increase.

Ontario's mines accounted for 39 p.c. of the Dominion's mineral output in 1947; British Columbia accounted for 18.2 p.c., and Quebec for 17.9 p.c. Alberta, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Yukon followed in the order named. Output in Ontario increased by 26 p.c. over the 1946 total to \$241,700,000 in 1947; British Columbia gained 52 p.c. to \$113,100,000, and Quebec advanced 19 p.c. to \$110,600,000 in the same period.