

The value of Quebec's output of metallic minerals, to which gold, copper and zinc contributed 95 p.c., made up more than one-half the value of the Province's total mineral output in 1949. In the production of each of these metals (gold, copper and zinc) Quebec holds second place among the provinces.

At one time the Eastern Townships were the source not only of all the gold produced in the Province, which was extracted from placer deposits, but also of all the copper, the most notable copper mine being the Eustis, which operated continuously for 74 years before closing down in 1939. It was not until the discovery and development of deposits in the Noranda-Rouyn and Malartic areas of western Quebec between 1923 and 1930 that metals, as a group, made any substantial contribution to the value of the Province's mineral output. The bulk of the gold and copper and the greater part of the zinc now produced comes from those mines. Outstanding is the great Horne copper-gold-silver-pyrite mine of Noranda Mines, Limited, the leading producer of both gold and copper. Selenium, tellurium, and silver are recovered as by-products in that Company's operations. Waite Amulet, Normetal, and most of the other base-metal mines in western Quebec yield both copper and zinc—only Golden Manitou produces lead in addition—and all contain gold and silver. Prominent among recent new producers in the area are the East Sullivan and Quemont gold-copper-zinc mines.

The two most notable base-metal producers outside western Quebec are Anacon Lead Mines, Limited, which opened up the old Tétreault lead-zinc-gold-silver deposit, and New Calumet Mines, Limited, with its zinc-lead-gold-silver mine on Calumet Island in the Ottawa River.

Drilling near the head of York River in the Gaspé Peninsula has indicated the existence of a very large tonnage of low-grade copper ore. Near Sherbrooke, in the Eastern Townships, the Moulton Hill copper-zinc-lead-gold-silver mine is again being prepared for production.

No iron ore for the production of iron and steel is now mined in Quebec, but plans are under way to mine high-grade hematite from the huge deposits on the Quebec-Labrador boundary and to transport the ore over a 360-mile railway to Seven Islands on the St. Lawrence River and from there by boat to points of consumption.

Another outstanding project is connected with the titanium-rich iron-ore deposits of the Lake Allard district. A 27-mile railway from Havre St. Pierre on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River to the deposit is nearing completion. The ore will be processed at Sorel in five electric furnaces expected to be completed by the autumn of 1951. The plant will yield 500 tons of iron a day and 700 tons of titanium concentrate. Production of titanium metal must await the working out of an economic method of extracting titanium from the ore.

The Chibougamau-Bachelor Lake area, where several mines were partly developed several years ago, also shows indications of much activity. It has been made accessible by the recently completed permanent road from St. Félicien, a railway station in the Lake St. John region. New mineral discoveries in this district have been made and the possibilities for many more are held to be good.