

**Ontario.**—Ontario has long ranked first among the provinces in mineral production. In 1949 its output was valued at \$323,369,000 an all-time high and 36 p.c. of the entire Canadian mining output for that year.

Metals have been the greatest factor in the mineral wealth produced in Ontario since early in the century. They accounted for 82 p.c. of the value of mineral output in 1949; in fact, they contributed as much as 49 p.c. to the value of all metallic minerals produced in Canada in that year. The output of asbestos at Matheson, Ont., (the first production from this province) will soon substantially increase the value of industrial minerals produced.

The Province's output of metals began with the discovery of silver at Cobalt in 1903 during the construction of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. That discovery not only led to Cobalt winning almost immediate renown at home and abroad for its wealth in silver but gave promise of other mineral riches in the little-known country tapped by the new railway. Not many years later that promise was fulfilled in the discoveries upon which the rich mining camps found there to-day have been built up. Among these are the Porcupine-Kirkland Lake-Larder Lake area camps with their great gold mines like Hollinger, Dome, McIntyre, Lake Shore, Wright-Hargreaves, and Kerr-Addison—Ontario's biggest producer of gold. Subsequent gold discoveries include those in the northwesterly part of the Province, the Crow River and Red Lake areas in particular. Ontario in 1949 accounted for over 57 p.c. of the gold produced in Canada, all of the nickel and platinum metals, and much of the copper and the iron ore.

Nickel ranks next to gold in the amount contributed to the value of the Province's output since 1900, followed by copper, silver, and platinum metals. The source of all the nickel and platinum metals as well as much of the copper and silver has been, and still is, the nickel-copper ore of the famed Sudbury area, where the International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, and Falconbridge Nickel Mines, Limited, have long operated. The former Company has under way a \$50,000,000-program designed to improve production methods, reduce costs, and make use of the large reserves of low-grade ore heretofore regarded as unprofitable, and the latter Company is engaged in work which will result in substantial addition to its ore reserves.

The Province's output of iron ore in 1949 was the highest recorded, 2,012,000 tons, the only other provinces contributing to the Canadian output being Newfoundland with 1,658,000 tons and British Columbia with 5,000 tons. The rise in Ontario's output after resumption of mining in 1939 following a lapse of 15 years has been most marked since late in 1944 when Steep Rock Iron Mines, Limited, began shipping ore from its mine at Steep Rock Lake, west of Port Arthur. That Company, through the development of a new orebody, aims at producing 4,000,000 tons annually by 1954 and Algoma Ore Properties, Limited, in the Michipicoten area, the other source of Ontario's production, has recently enlarged its sintering plant and has revealed a body of ore far more extensive than either the Helen or Victoria bodies now being mined.

Ontario in 1949 led in output of salt, quartz, structural materials and clay products, and ranked second in a number of other non-metallic mineral products, including fluorspar which is produced in only one other province, Newfoundland. Ontario is the only Canadian producer of nepheline syenite and graphite.