

Canadian steel industry were met by imports, mainly from the United States, and from Newfoundland, which entered Confederation in 1949. From 1939 until 1944 the entire Canadian output came from the Helen mine of Algoma Ore Properties Limited in the Michipicoten area of Ontario.

Meantime, two events occurred which were to change the outlook completely—the discovery of large deposits of hematite in the Steep Rock area 140 miles west of Port Arthur in Ontario, and the disclosure of large deposits of this ore in the Quebec-Labrador region. In both cases the discoveries were made just prior to World War II. Currently, both areas are sharing the limelight and, in addition, the huge Wabana deposits in Newfoundland now comprise a part of Canada's wealth of iron ore.

From here on, the order of importance of the outstanding post-war developments in mineral production would be difficult to appraise. Whether it be the disclosure of large quantities of natural gas in Alberta or the discovery of deposits of titanium ore in eastern Quebec, the discoveries of asbestos in British Columbia and Ontario, the huge aluminum project at Kitimat in British Columbia, or a number of other enterprises of varying importance that could be mentioned, it is evident that Canada has been witnessing the greatest wave of mineral resources development in its history.

Actually, this expansion developed somewhat slowly at first. There was an abrupt slackening in the demand for most mine products during 1946 when the industry in Canada and elsewhere was in the process of readjustment to a peacetime basis. Soon, however, the effects of the curtailment in the output of civilian goods during six years of war became evident in a demand for such goods far in excess of any ever experienced.

The setting for an expansion of the country's mineral economy was close to ideal. Prices were rising, there was every reasonable assurance of a prolonged demand for mine products and industry as a whole in Canada was expanding rapidly, thus adding to the demand for mineral raw materials. If more were needed in the way of incentive it was provided in the discovery of the Leduc oil field in Alberta in February 1947. That event perhaps more than any other single post-war development brought Canada's mineral possibilities sharply into focus and caused Canadians and others to gain a new conception of the country's mineral estate, a conception that would have been regarded as visionary if not extravagant even 25 years ago.

The effects have been cumulative. The Leduc discovery has brought the whole Prairie region of several hundred thousand square miles into perspective as holding possibilities of further important discoveries and of resultant disclosures of natural gas; the high base-metal prices have brought within economic range several deposits of these metals in various parts of Canada which would otherwise have remained undeveloped, and have caused attention to turn to the re-examination of many long-dormant properties; the high prices for other mine products, coupled with the steadiness of the demand, have encouraged the establishment of new enterprises and the large-scale expansion of existing enterprises.

A cross-sectional survey of the nature and scope of this post-war expansion and of the more important developments follows, on a regional basis.

British Columbia.—This Province, whose mining history dates back to the discovery of gold in the gravels of the lower Fraser River close to a century ago and whose contribution to Canada's mineral output up to the end of 1951 has