

amounted to upwards of \$3,000,000,000, has been experiencing a tremendous upsurge of mining and related activity. Practically every favourable section of the great expanse of Cordilleran rocks which underlie most of the Province has been receiving attention in the belief that these rocks contain much hidden wealth, a belief supported by encouraging results up to date. Modern means of transportation permit easier access to many areas that were formerly difficult to reach, and road improvements, power development and cheaper processing and extractive methods, coupled with high prices, make the development of prospects and properties in these areas feasible. Mineral discoveries made 30 to 50 or more years ago when primitive methods of transportation proved an effective barrier to their development, are now being reappraised.

From the outset the production of metals has been the mainstay of the Province's mineral economy and in 1951 accounted for 85 p.c. of the total value of the mineral output in that year. Lead, zinc, copper, gold and silver are the chief metals produced, the Province being the leading world producer of lead and zinc and well to the fore in silver production. Chief source of these three metals is the great Sullivan mine of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited at Kimberley in the East Kootenay area. This Company, with its operations at Kimberley, its sprawling metallurgical plants at Trail, and its various other activities, forms the hard core of British Columbia's mineral industry. In addition to ores of the Sullivan mine the Company treats ores from over 100 properties in the Province on a custom basis and is the sole Canadian producer of tin and bismuth and a leading producer of cadmium and antimonial lead, and of fertilizer and other chemical products.

Practically all of British Columbia's output of copper has come from deposits in the western Cordilleran Region and in recent years mainly from Granby Consolidated Mining Smelting and Power Company's operations at Allenby and from those of Britannia Mining and Smelting Company at Britannia Beach. The output is in the form of copper concentrates which are shipped to the smelter at Tacoma, Washington, for recovery of the copper. The output in 1951 was 21,905 tons valued at \$12,096,306.

Placer gold mining has dwindled in importance over the years and much the greater part of the gold output now comes from gold-quartz mines in the Bridge River, Atlin, Hedley, and other areas. This production, too, has been declining sharply, the output of 202,130 oz t. in 1951 being less than one-half that of 1941. Base-metal operations account for the remainder of the output.

Iron ore and tungsten concentrates round out the list of metallic ores produced in British Columbia. Production of the former was never large and has been intermittent but, as noted later, there has been a revival of interest in the development of deposits. The tungsten concentrates come from operations in the Salmo area, to which reference is also made later. The Province accounted for all the Canadian output of 20,000 lb. of tungsten ore in 1951.

Though small in comparison with that of the metals, the Province's output of the non-metallic minerals has been increasing, a trend which seems likely to continue in view of recent developments, including the discovery of crude oil in the Peace River area near the end of 1951; the commencement of production from asbestos deposits discovered in the McDame area in 1950, and the expansion in the cement industry. Coal is the chief single contributor to the output of non-metallic minerals. Bituminous coking coal ranging from high to low volatile is