

Demand for Saskatchewan's output of sodium sulphate, particularly by the pulp and paper industry, has been outstripping supply despite a production increase of 45 p.c. in 1951 compared with 1950. In line with increased demand, prices at Saskatchewan plants moved upward on non-contract sales during the year. Exports showed an increase of 97 p.c. to 56,000 tons. Sources of the output are the large reserves of sodium sulphate that occur in highly concentrated brines and in alkali lakes in southwestern Saskatchewan, the only Canadian producer of the mineral.

The Province is also abundantly supplied with stoneware, fireclays, and ball-clays. However, its production of clay products is relatively small, amounting to only \$573,000 in 1951. There are various reasons for this, the main being that because of transportation costs the market is largely limited to the Prairie region. Stoneware clay is selectively mined in the Eastend area and is shipped to Medicine Hat, Alta., where, owing to the availability of cheap natural gas, it is used extensively to make a wide variety of stoneware articles, sewer pipe and pottery. The Provincial Government has undertaken an extensive program of exploration of the ball and other clay resources, in the hope that markets for such clays will develop in Eastern Canada and in the United States.

Manitoba.—Much of the post-war interest in mineral developments in Manitoba has been centred in the operations at Lynn Lake, 500 miles north of Winnipeg, where Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited has been busily engaged in preparing its large deposits of copper-nickel ore for production, which is expected to commence by the end of 1953. Development of the power sites on the Laurie River to supply hydro-electric energy to the Lynn Lake operations is well advanced and construction by the Canadian National Railways of the 147-mile railroad from Sherridon to Lynn Lake is progressing. The line is being built at an estimated cost of about \$15,000,000. Work on the design of the chemical metallurgical plant which is to be located at Fort Saskatchewan, 15 miles northeast of Edmonton, has been commenced and construction is scheduled to begin during the second quarter of 1952. The plant will be within easy reach of an adequate supply of water and natural gas. Present plans call for the treatment of 2,000 tons of ore a day with an estimated output of 8,500 tons of nickel and 4,500 tons of copper annually. Ore reserves in excess of 14,000,000 tons have been outlined. Meantime the Sherritt Gordon operations at Sherridon have come to an end and the mining plants, concentrator, and employees' houses are being moved to Lynn Lake.

The main development at the Flin Flon operations of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited has been the bringing of the new slag-fuming plant into continuous operation. This will enable the Company to increase its production of zinc to 65,000 tons a year from the present 50,000 tons and at the same time reduce the tonnage of ore mined, as the compensating production will come from the zinc plant residue. This Company in 1950 accounted for about 15 p.c. of Canada's output of zinc and about 15 p.c. of the output of copper and is also an important producer of cadmium, selenium, gold and silver, which are recovered as by-products. Aside from the slag-fuming plant, its facilities include a concentrator with a capacity of 6,300 tons a day, an electrolytic zinc refinery and a copper smelter. The Company ships its blister copper to Canadian Copper Refiners Limited, at Montreal East, for refining. It has been carrying out underground development work at its nearby Schist Lake mine and has a number of other