

Nickel Company of Canada has also held first position as a producer of the platinum metals for the past several years and has spent in excess of \$100,000,000 since the War in conversion and expansion programs.

Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, Canada's only other producer of nickel, has also been expanding its operations. The Company obtains most of its copper-nickel ore from its Falconbridge mine and the remainder from its McKim mine, which was brought into production a few years ago. It is now preparing its Hardy mine for production at a 1,000-ton-per-day rate. Matte from the smelter at Falconbridge is shipped to the Company's refinery in Norway for recovery of the metals.

Rising costs of labour, supplies, equipment and services have had an adverse effect on Ontario's gold industry. However, production of the metal increased from 1,625,368 oz t. in 1945 to 2,445,902 oz t. in 1951, but the latter was slightly lower than in 1950 and was far below the peak production of 1940. In comparison with 1945, output from the Porcupine camp in 1951 increased by approximately 27 p.c.; from the Kirkland Lake camp by approximately 23 p.c.; Larder Lake, 226 p.c.; Matachewan, 19 p.c.; Patricia, 149 p.c.; and Thunder Bay, 177 p.c. Production of gold from base-metal operations totalled 40,640 oz t. in 1951.

Comparatively few new gold producers have been added to the list during the past six years and production of some of the established producers has been curtailed to a varying degree. Federal Government cost-aid, which came into effect at the commencement of 1948, has been a stabilizing influence and by Dec. 31, 1951, had reached a total of \$19,140,486 for Ontario. This assistance has been of chief benefit, of course, to the higher cost and marginal mines.

Of special interest is the recent activity in the Cobalt-Gowganda area both in relation to silver and cobalt. This once-famous area, which in 1911, the peak year, recorded a silver output of 31,507,791 oz t., appeared for a time to have faded from the picture as an important contributor to Ontario's mineral output. But the urgent need for cobalt in post-war industry and for defence purposes, coupled with the rising price of silver, caused attention to turn again to the camp and there has been a steady increase in activity since 1949. Production of silver from the camp increased from 476,335 oz t. in 1945 to approximately 4,000,000 oz t. in 1951.

The production of cobalt in the area is closely linked with that of silver. Cobalt became one of the scarcest of metals in 1951 owing to its increasing use in jet engine alloys, armour plating, as a binder in the manufacture of cemented carbide tools, in high operating temperature engines and in permanent reagents for electronic use. As a means of stimulating production, the Federal Government raised substantially the price of cobalt contained in cobalt ores. Cobalt occurs in minor amounts in the copper-nickel ores of the Sudbury area and is recovered from the residues of the electrolytic refining of nickel.

The addition of asbestos to the list of non-metallic minerals produced in the Province is a major post-war development. The main discoveries of this mineral have been in the Matheson area and exploratory work indicates that they are extensive. Output commenced in 1950 and in 1951, the first full year of operation, amounted to 26,100 tons. The asbestos is of a type well suited to the manufacture of asbestos cement now in great demand in Canada.

Nepheline syenite, salt, quartz, gypsum, mica, fluorspar, clay products, cement, lime, stone and crude petroleum round out the list of minerals produced in Ontario. The Province has the distinction of being the only present-known source of nepheline