

and is sold as high-grade iron. At present only one furnace is in operation in the plant but two others are nearing completion and two more are to be built. The smelter, when completed, will have a rated daily capacity of 500 tons of iron and 700 tons of titanium dioxide slag.

Not so many years ago Noranda Mines Limited accounted for all but a small part of the output of base metals in Quebec. However, a few other mines in that section began contributing and then, with the sharp rise in the prices of copper and zinc, more followed, each in turn expanding its operations. The high prices also caused attention to turn to the Eastern Townships and to other areas that had remained largely inactive for years.

Recently, large deposits of zinc and silver have been disclosed at the Barvue mine east of Amos in Barraute township. Close to 18,000,000 tons of zinc-silver ore has been outlined at the property to a depth of 700 ft. and a mill capable of handling over 5,000 tons of ore a day is scheduled to enter production by the middle of 1952. This development appears to be shaping up as one of the largest zinc operations in the country, with an anticipated output of more than 35,000 tons of zinc annually when full operation is reached.

A number of other properties have also appeared in the picture: the East Sullivan and Quemont mines in western Quebec, which entered production in 1949; the Moulton Hill and Suffield mines in the Eastern Townships, both of which are operated by Ascot Metals Corporation Limited; the Anacon mine about 70 miles west of Quebec city; and Noranda's copper property in Gaspé Peninsula which its subsidiary, Gaspé Copper Mines Limited, is now developing toward production. The latter, located across the St. Lawrence from the port of Seven Islands, appears also to be developing into a major enterprise. The grade of the ore is relatively low but the reserves are presently estimated to be in excess of 70,000,000 tons, which would be sufficient to maintain operation for many years. Plans call for production of 5,000 tons of ore daily, commencing in about five years; when in full production this property will increase Quebec's copper output by about 25,000 tons a year. An estimated \$8,000,000 will be required to bring the mine into production.

The revival of interest in the Chibougamau area, 210 miles northeast of Noranda, is also of considerable significance. Earlier development of this area was handicapped by lack of suitable transportation and low metal prices, but these obstacles have been overcome and there is also reasonable assurance of a supply of hydro-electric power needed for the various operations. Several companies are engaged in exploring copper-gold deposits here and there throughout the area and work on some of the prospects is sufficiently advanced to warrant consideration of mill construction.

What the future may bring in the way of further important discoveries will depend largely upon the continuance or otherwise of the present demand. The consideration being given currently to the erection of a zinc refinery in the Province is indicative of the optimism that prevails in reference to the outlook for the base metals. One of the largest copper refineries in the British Commonwealth and Empire is located at Montreal East, but it is only recently that the production of zinc has reached the point where a zinc refinery seems warranted.