

For a number of years natural gas and crude petroleum have been produced from the Stony Creek field in the southeastern part of the Province, and Moncton, Hillsborough, and other localities in Albert and Westmorland Counties obtain their supplies of natural gas from this source. Production of these two fuels has declined steadily, however, during the past few years.

Considerable interest has been shown recently in some of the base-metal occurrences and over 20 companies are engaged in the search for these metals. Most of the activity has been in Gloucester and Restigouche Counties, and particularly in the Rocky Brook-Millstream field where there are known occurrences of copper, lead, zinc and silver.

**Nova Scotia.**—The marked growth of interest and activity in the various fields of mineral endeavour across Canada has been reflected within the mineral industry in Nova Scotia in the extensive mechanization and modernization under way in the mining of coal, the principal mineral product, and in the expansion in production of industrial minerals, particularly gypsum and barytes. Interest has also been revived in the Province's base-metal deposits which have as yet remained largely undeveloped. Mineral production as a whole increased in value from \$32,220,659 in 1945 to \$59,387,855 in 1951, coal accounting for over 83 p.c. of the value of output in 1951.

Coal mining has long been a major industry in the Province and has been carried on for over 200 years. The main fields are those at Sydney and Inverness in Cape Breton Island, and at Pictou and Cumberland on the mainland. The coal comes from Pennsylvanian strata and is all of bituminous rank. Much of it is suitable for the production of coke and gas and, in addition, is a good steam coal. Production ordinarily supplies the railroads of the area, the local steel industry and the domestic market, as well as part of the fuel requirements of the Province of Quebec.

Mechanization of the coal mines has proceeded rapidly, the chief mines being now fully mechanized, except in certain cases, for loading coal into mine cars. The Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Limited has developed a coal-cutting and loading machine designed to dig and load 500 tons of coal in eight hours. This Company is carrying out a \$7,000,000 mechanization and mine development program. Bras d'Or Company Limited, which was the first company in the Province to complete the mechanization of its workings, has installed a coal-cleaning plant, the only one of its kind in Canada.

Extensive research on coal is being carried out in Nova Scotia by the Federal and Provincial Governments. A thorough scientific study of coal has been undertaken as well as studies of rope haulage and methods of rope socketing in the coal mines.

Industrial minerals are playing an increasingly important role in the Province's mineral production. Nova Scotia is the leading Canadian producer of barytes and gypsum, producing in 1951 over 98 p.c. and 84 p.c., respectively, of the entire Canadian output of these minerals. Canadian Industrial Minerals Limited accounts for practically all of the barytes produced in the Province from its deposit at Walton, Hants County. Production consists of crude barytes for the chemical trade and ground barytes for industrial filler and drilling mud. Ground white barytes will be added to the output upon completion of the mill of Maritime Barytes Limited