

Noranda Mines Limited and Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited have been playing important roles in this development, particularly in connection with the exploration of lead-zinc deposits.

For a number of years prior to 1947, mining had been decreasing rapidly and, although placer gold operations in the Klondike area were maintained at a high level, lack of suitable transportation and of a supply of hydro-electric energy had all but discouraged the outlay of capital in the exploration and development of properties in other areas. The success of operations in the Mayo area pointed up the need for a highway to connect Whitehorse and Mayo, the construction of which was completed by the Federal Government a few years ago. Thus, improved transportation, together with power prospects contingent upon the development of a power site on the Mayo River which is scheduled for completion before the end of 1952, and high metal prices have provided much of the incentive needed to encourage capital expenditures in the search for and development of mineral deposits.

At present, the Mayo area is exceptionally active and a number of companies are engaged in appraising the mine-making possibilities of their holdings. From the commencement of its operations until the end of 1951, United Keno Hill had produced concentrates containing about 39,000,000 lb. of lead, 16,000,000 lb. of zinc, and close to 11,000,000 oz t. of silver. The Hector mine has been the principal source of ore, but the Company has been carrying out considerable preproduction development on its Onek mine about four miles east of the Hector and plans to build a 300-ton mill on this property. The silver-lead-zinc concentrates are shipped to Trail, B.C., for smelting and recovery of the three metals and of cadmium which occurs in association with the ores. United Keno Hill accounts for practically all the production from the area but several other properties show promise.

Although the glamorous days of the far-famed Klondike rush have long since passed, placer gold operations in Yukon Territory seem likely to continue. Recent estimates place Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation gravel reserves well in excess of 100,000,000 cu. yd., sufficient for many years of operation on the present scale. In 1951 it had seven dredges in operation compared with eight in the previous year, which accounts for the decline in the value of its gold output from \$2,540,000 in 1950 to \$1,907,000 in 1951. The Company is by far the largest producer of placer gold in the Territory.

Coal is the only other mineral produced in Yukon where the output is small, amounting to only 3,470 tons in 1951, all of it being from the Carmacks area. However, some shipments of wolframite, an ore of tungsten, are expected to be made during the summer of 1952 by Yukon Tungsten Corporation, which acquired ground in 1951 along the Alaska Highway about five miles north of Mile 701.

Northwest Territories.—Considering that as recently as 1932 the value of mineral production from this vast region with a land area of 1,253,438 sq. miles was only slightly more than \$21,000, the increase in the value of output to \$8,229,681 in 1951 is truly impressive, the latter amount being exclusive of pitchblende products, which are not reported. Aside from these products, the mineral output consists entirely of gold, crude petroleum, silver and natural gas, the value of the gold output in 1951 being about 94 p.c. of the total. It is interesting to note that the value of mineral production in the Northwest Territories in 1945 was only \$471,000, exclusive of pitchblende products.