

large project in 1952 that includes the mapping of an approximate 100,000-square-mile-portion of the Shield for about 100 miles from Chesterfield Inlet southwesterly to Selwyn Lake on the southern boundary of Northwest Territories. This is being done to provide a preliminary survey of the mineral potentialities of the area.

Conclusion.—At the time of writing (June 1952), the tempo of mining activity throughout Canada continues to increase and new developments are occurring here and there in the industry—a group of five oil firms has acquired a 50,000-acre Crown permit in the bituminous sands area of northeastern Alberta and is to start a core-drilling campaign shortly; Saskatchewan's third oil-strike in 1952 has been made in the Hoosier area about six miles east of the Alberta border; a staking rush has started in an area 20 miles south of Sudbury; milling of lead-zinc ore is to commence shortly at a property in northern Ontario; and a new gold mine has entered production in western Quebec. Week by week news-making events are occurring and, though the prices of some of the metals have receded from the high levels reached in 1951, there is little indication of a general decline.

Much of the present activity in the industry is the outcome of huge capital outlays in plant, railway, power development and other constructional projects, the Kitimat project and the Quebec-Labrador iron ore development being two outstanding examples. Such expenditures are characteristic of a rapidly growing industry and, though there may be a considerable scaling down from current levels when the present projects are completed, there seems to be every assurance that the flow of funds into mineral development will continue at a high level for some time to come. Quite apart from their beneficial influence on the economy of the country, the accomplishments of the past few years have emphasized the fact that Canada has much greater potentialities as a mineral producer than was ever before realized.

Section 2.—Government Aid to the Mining Industry*

Subsection 1.—Federal Government Aid

The Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.—The Federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, which came into being on Jan. 20, 1950, as a result of a departmental reorganization at Ottawa, continues the services, but in larger measure, rendered to the mining industry by the former Department of Mines and Resources. The Department has five branches—Geological Survey of Canada, Mines Branch, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Dominion Observatories, and Geographical Branch.

Geological Survey.—The chief function of the Geological Survey is to map and report on the geology of Canada. It carries out geological studies in the field and office to promote the discovery and development of mineral resources and underground water resources; contributes geological information as an aid in the construction of such public works as dams, bridges, tunnels, foundations, etc.; and makes mineralogical and palæontological studies in the field and office that assist in promoting the study and development of mineral resources; collects minerals and materials for study, exhibition and distribution; and makes geophysical

* Revised under the direction of Marc Boyer, Deputy Minister, in the Editorial and Information Division, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa.