

British Columbia's wealth of water-power resources is playing a vital role in the expansion of metal-mining activity in the Province. This is readily seen in the scope of operations of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited, the Province's metal-mining giant, which now has a total output of 400,000 h.p. The latest addition to its hydro power was made by the Company in March 1954 when it set into operation the first two units, of 105,000 h.p. each, of its new \$35,000,000 Waneta power plant on the Pend d'Oreille River. The availability of water-power resources has also made possible the huge Kitimat aluminum project, where initial production started in 1954. A projected use of these same resources which will greatly benefit metal mining both in the Province and elsewhere is planned by Frobisher Limited and Quebec Metallurgical Industries Limited. These companies have been surveying the water-power resources of Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia and plan on establishing metallurgical industries in those northern areas for the treatment of ores from Canadian and world-wide sources.

British Columbia in 1953 accounted for 78 p.c. of the Canadian tonnage of lead produced and 47 p.c. of the zinc. Most of the output comes from the Sullivan mine of Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company near Kimberley, the largest lead-zinc-silver mine in the world. The Company is Canada's largest producer of silver and the only Canadian producer of antimony, indium and tin. It also produces bismuth and cadmium as by-products. The remainder of the Province's metal output is comprised mainly of copper, gold, iron ore and tungsten.

The continued decline in lead and zinc prices resulted in a steady decrease in the value of British Columbia's mineral output from a record \$176,279,000 in 1951 to \$160,741,000 in 1953. Eighteen producers have suspended operations; several have reduced operations considerably, one of these—Canadian Exploration Limited—having cut the milling rate at its Jersey mine by one-half; and several have postponed opening up new properties pending an improvement in the lead and zinc prices. Despite this, the Province's output of lead increased 48,000,000 lb. over 1952 to 307,178,000 lb. in 1953, and zinc increased 27,000,000 lb. to 375,538,000 lb. Values, however, were down, lead declining almost \$1,500,000 to \$40,471,000 and zinc \$16,000,000 to \$44,914,000. On Jan. 1, 1954, Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company reduced its production of refined zinc by 25 p.c.

On the brighter side, copper, iron ore and tungsten all showed increased tonnages and values of output in 1953 and strong possibilities for continued growth. Copper production comes from the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company Limited in the Yale district near Princeton, and from Britannia Mining and Smelting Company Limited, north of Vancouver. Interesting copper deposits are being explored and developed in the northwestern part of the Province in the Unuk area, 20 miles north of Premier, and in the areas east and north of Vancouver.

An important iron-ore industry is taking shape on Vancouver and Texada Islands. Production, all of which is shipped to Japan, comes from the Iron Hill mine of the Argonaut Company Limited, the larger producer, and from three deposits of Texada Mines Limited on Texada Island. Output in 1953 amounted to 988,000 tons valued at \$6,745,000, compared with 900,000 tons valued at \$5,444,000 in 1952.