

Most of the silver output comes from the Cobalt area and the remainder as a by-product from International Nickel Company's operations and from the Province's gold mines. Output in 1953 amounted to 5,051,000 oz. t., 22 p.c. below the 1952 figure.

The Province has long been Canada's leading gold producer and in 1953 accounted for 53 p.c. of the output. Production, which came from 38 gold mines in the Patricia, Thunder Bay, Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, and Larder Lake areas and as a by-product from the base-metal mines of the Sudbury area, in 1953 declined 331,000 oz. t. below the 1952 total of 2,183,000 oz. t.—the result of labour strikes in the Porcupine area and of the closing of five mines owing to high costs or depleted ore reserves. However, Kerr-Addison Gold Mines Limited, Canada's leading gold producer, maintained production at approximately 1952 levels while operations in the Thunder Bay and Patricia districts recorded favourable performances.

During the review period, exploratory activity in the search for new sources of mineral wealth was widespread in the Province, a record 27,000 claims being staked in 1953. A number of important finds were made, including interesting deposits of uranium ore in the Blind River and Bancroft areas which focussed attention on the Province as a possible future source of the ore. In the Blind River area the discovery of uranium-bearing ore by Peach Uranium and Metal Mining Limited and Preston East Dome Mines Limited set off a staking rush into the area in the summer of 1953. Staking spread rapidly eastward as far as the Temagami area near North Bay. Around Blind River, several companies carried out considerable development work on their properties and Algom Uranium Mines Limited, a subsidiary of Preston East Dome Mines, and Pronto Uranium Mines Limited, a subsidiary of Peach Uranium and Metal Mining, are each proceeding with development work with a view to production. In southeastern Ontario much staking in the search for uranium has been done, particularly around Bancroft. Centre Lake Uranium Mines Limited has been carrying out underground exploration of its property in the area.

Meanwhile, in the North Bay area, Beaucage Mines Limited, a subsidiary of Inspiration Mining and Development Company Limited, continued to explore its niobium (columbium)-uranium discoveries on and near the Manitou Islands in Lake Nipissing, and to seek an economical means of treating the ore.

Events during the period also pointed up Ontario's potentialities as a base-metal producer. The discovery of a large deposit of copper-zinc ore near Manitowadge Lake, about 40 miles northeast of Heron Bay on Lake Superior, reported in December, set off Ontario's second great staking rush of the period. Geco Mines Limited, which was formed to explore the property, is planning production from the deposit. Other interesting finds have also been reported in the area. In May, the House of Commons passed a Bill authorizing the construction by the Canadian National Railways of a 27-mile railway line from Hillspoint on the main line of the Canadian National Railways into the area at an estimated cost of \$3,750,000.

Meanwhile, in the Sudbury area, Ontario Pyrites Company Limited continued to explore its extensive zinc-copper-lead properties 18 miles northwest of Sudbury and research is being carried out on economical methods of extracting the metals from the ore. The Company is planning a daily milling rate of 1,500 tons.

Quebec.—The marked growth of the mineral industry in Quebec during the past few years has gone hand in hand with the Province's great industrial expansion, and has contributed notably to it. Events during the review period brought Quebec