

The establishment of a base-metals industry at Bathurst has opened up new economic vistas to New Brunswick which has no metal production of any kind. Activity since the discovery has been maintained at a high level, over 40,000 claims being staked in 1953 in one of the greatest staking rushes in Canadian mining. Two major new orebodies were discovered within a five-mile radius of the original discovery at Austin Brook—the Anacon-Leadridge and the Larder “U” properties.

During the review period, Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation carried out extensive exploration by drilling on its large zinc-lead-pyrite deposit. In September 1953, the Company acquired the Anacon-Leadridge property to be developed simultaneously with the Austin Brook deposit, both of which are estimated to contain in excess of 60,000,000 tons to a depth of 1,000 feet, averaging 5.3 p.c. zinc and 1.7 p.c. lead. The Company plans to build a 150-ton test mill at the property, designed on the basis of metallurgical tests made in the mineral-dressing laboratories of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys at Ottawa, and to commence testing early in 1955. Underground development has been started at the Anacon-Leadridge property and the overburden is to be removed from the Austin Brook deposit which will be mined by open pit. The Company plans an initial production of 4,000 tons daily of lead, zinc and pyrite concentrates. In co-operation with the provincial government it has built a 13-mile highway connecting the Austin Brook deposit with Bathurst, and is building a branch line into the Anacon-Leadridge deposit. Power has been brought into the properties from the Nepisiguit Falls power plant.

Keymet Mines Limited had planned on bringing its lead-zinc-silver property, 15 miles north of Bathurst, into production early in 1954 but a fire destroyed the new 200-ton mill in April 1954. Construction of a second mill was started almost immediately and the Company hopes to place the mine into production by the autumn of 1954. Underground work at the property has been under way since January 1953.

Work is continuing on several other properties which were being actively explored in northeastern New Brunswick prior to the Bathurst discovery. These include the lead-zinc property of New Calumet Mines Limited at Orvan Brook, as well as a copper property of Noranda Mines Limited and a lead-zinc-silver property of the M. J. O'Brien Limited interests both in the Rocky Brook-Millstream area. Elsewhere in the Province, older properties, including manganese properties in the Bathurst area, are being re-examined.

In Nova Scotia the value of base-metal production, all of which comes from the mine of Mindamar Metals Corporation near Stirling, increased in 1953 to \$3,211,000 from \$2,136,000 in 1952 although the mine was in production for only eight months. Output comprised 15,148,000 lb. of zinc, 1,918,000 lb. of copper, 3,800,000 lb. of lead, 247,000 oz. t. of silver, and 3,400 oz. t. of gold. Mill output is approximately 600 tons daily.

Interest in Nova Scotia's base-metal potentialities has heightened as a result of the Bathurst discoveries in New Brunswick, and aeromagnetic and scintillation surveys have been made over much of the Province including Cape Breton Island. In Colchester County, a lead-zinc property is being developed at Smithfield and a lead property is being explored at Gay River. In Cumberland County work is being done on a copper occurrence at Cap d'Or.