

CHAPTER XI.—MINES AND MINERALS

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Section 1.—Canada's Mineral Industry 1954-55*

The great expansion that took place in Canada's mineral industry from the end of World War II to 1951 is reviewed in the 1952-53 Year Book, pp. 476-495. That information has been brought up to the latest possible date in each succeeding issue of the Year Book and is continued in this edition for the period July 1954 to June 1955.

Developments during the latest period extended the evidence of the industry's growth potential. Most noteworthy was the commencement of shipments in midsummer 1954 from the great iron ore deposits in the Quebec-Labrador region, an operation rapidly developing into a major enterprise; expectations are that shipments in 1955 will reach 6,500,000 long tons. Of particular interest and importance too were the operations at the recently discovered uranium deposits in the Blind River area of Ontario which were nearing the production stage by mid-1955. These deposits are probably the largest so far discovered in Canada or elsewhere.

Headway was also made in other fields of mineral activity. Crude oil production continued to mount and at the end of the period was close to 400,000 bbl. a day compared with 296,200 bbl. in July 1954 and 260,000 bbl. in July 1953, the figures for July 1954 being the equivalent of about 51 p.c. of the mid-1955 daily consumption. Production of the base metals was at record levels during most of the period and the world demand for all of them, particularly for copper, was exceptionally strong; in fact the shortage of copper was becoming acute. Gold production was increasing, and towards the end of the period there was considerable improvement in the industry. Production of the principal industrial minerals was also at or near peak levels. The search for mineral deposits was the most active in years, with some of the provinces reporting the establishment of new records in the number of claims staked during the review period. In this search uranium has been receiving chief attention.

* Except where otherwise indicated, this review was prepared under the direction of Dr. G. S. Hume, Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, by G. H. Murray, Chief of the Editorial and Information Division, and Mrs. M. J. Giroux of the Editorial Staff.