

Falconbridge Nickel Mines continued its \$55,000,000 expansion program designed to increase nickel production to 27,500 tons annually by 1960. The program includes the bringing in of six new mines, three of which—the Hardy in Levack township, the East Falconbridge in Falconbridge township and Mount Nickel in Blezard township—started production during the review period. A new concentrator at the Hardy mine was completed and the expansion of the refinery at Kristiansand in Norway to 22,500 tons of nickel annually was begun. A pilot pyrrhotite treatment plant for the recovery of nickel and a high grade synthetic iron ore, and eventually of sulphur, from low grade pyrrhotite concentrates, was also completed.

Nickel production came from three other properties in the Sudbury area: Nickel Rim Mines Limited in MacLennan township about seven miles north of Falconbridge, which sold the concentrates produced in its 500 ton mill under contract to Falconbridge Nickel Mines; Nickel Offsets Limited in Foy and Bowell townships about 20 miles north of Chelmsford, which also sold the concentrates produced in its 300 ton mill under contract to Falconbridge Nickel Mines; and Milnet Mines Limited in Parkin township about 22 miles northeast of Sudbury at which operations ceased in the latter half of 1954 when available ore was mined out.

The International Nickel Company accounts for 90 p.c. of Ontario's output of copper which in 1954 increased to 140,056 tons valued at \$80,903,000 compared with 130,583 tons valued at \$77,587,000 in 1953. The remaining copper production came from Falconbridge Nickel Mines and from Nickel Rim Mines, Nickel Offset Mines and Milnet Mines.

Developments in the Manitouwadge area of northwestern Ontario point to a substantial increase in the Province's output of copper by the spring of 1957 when Geco Mines Limited plans to bring its copper-zinc property into production at an initial daily rate of 3,300 tons. Over 14,000,000 tons of ore have been indicated in three deposits. A highway has been built into the area from Hemlo on the CPR, and shortly after the end of the period, the CNR completed a 28 mile branch line into the camp from Hillspoint on its main line. The CPR is also building a branch line into the camp. Exploration of several other properties in the area disclosed interesting copper and zinc occurrences. Elsewhere, deposits, apparently of considerable extent, were discovered near Tashota on the CNR to the northwest of the Geco property by Teck Exploration Company Limited and on Timagami Lake by Temagami Mining Company Limited.

Ontario is one of Canada's richest sources of iron ore. Development activity at the various properties remained at a high level despite poor demand and indications were that Ontario's production would be in the neighbourhood of 12,000,000 tons annually by 1960. Production during the review period came from Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited and Algoma Ore Properties Limited in northwestern Ontario and, starting in May 1955 in southeastern Ontario, from the Marmorata deposit of Marmorata Mining Company Limited, a subsidiary of Bethlehem Mines Corporation. Most of the Province's output is exported to the United States where it is in demand because of its high grade and good furnace qualities. Most of the ore used in Ontario blast furnaces is imported from that country.

At Steep Rock all production came from the Hogarth open pit and amounted to 1,157,000 long tons compared with 1,301,000 long tons in 1953. Development of the Errington underground No. 1 mine which had been under way since 1950 was completed and the mine was ready for production. It will replace the Errington open pit which had reached the economic depth for open pit mining late in 1953. By June 1955 the Company had started the removal of the 50,000,000 cu. yards of silt covering the 'G' orebody lying between the Errington and Hogarth mines. Caland Ore Company Limited also proceeded to remove the silt from the 'C' orebody which it holds under lease from Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited. Production, which will eventually amount to 3,000,000 long tons annually, is expected to start in 1960.