

works. Also, present day specifications for sand for use in concrete call for more fines and for more precise gradation in size of the sand particles than is found in most natural deposits. This has resulted in the rise of an entirely new industry to engage in the manufacture of sand from rock. One such sand-making plant is in operation in Calgary and three others are being built adjacent to the major locks and dams of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project to supply the sand for the concrete.

Barite.—Despite the loss of the market for pigment raw material which occurred when titanium dioxide supplanted lithopone as a pigment, the demand for barite remains high and the output from the deposits in Nova Scotia and British Columbia remains near the record high production of 247,227 tons established in 1953. Most of the output comes from the deposit at Walton, N.S., operated by Canadian Industrial Minerals, Limited. This deposit, which ranks as one of the world's largest, was purchased in 1955 by Magnet Cove Barium Corporation of Houston, Texas. After being crushed and washed the ore is shipped by boat to plants on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico where it is ground for use in making heavy drilling muds needed to combat the high pressures encountered in drilling deep oil wells in that area.

Salt.—Rock salt of chemical grade became available to Canadian industry from a Canadian source in August 1955 when the mine of Canadian Rock Salt Company at Ojibway, Ont., commenced production. Two and one-half years of preparatory work and over \$5,000,000 were spent to bring this project into production. Facilities are available to produce 500 tons of salt per hour from a 27 foot salt bed, 1,000 feet below the surface. The output is marketed in both eastern Canada and the eastern United States for chemical purposes and for use on highways to control dust in summer and ice in winter.

Recently Malagash Salt Company, which operates a salt mine at Malagash, N.S., found a new deposit of salt of chemical grade at nearby Pugwash, and is sinking a 400 foot shaft to the deposit with the intention of operating it.

Elsewhere in Canada salt is obtained by introducing water to deeply buried salt beds and pumping up the resulting brine. Production of salt set a new record in 1955 when 1,274,000 tons valued at \$10,286,000 were marketed.

Sulphur.—Good progress is being made in the utilization of domestic sources of sulphur. No commercial deposits of elemental or native sulphur have been found in Canada but there is an abundance of pyrite, pyrrhotite and other sulphide minerals, and also of "sour" natural gas from which sulphur is obtained. No pyrite or pyrrhotite has as yet been mined solely for its sulphur content but production is obtained from byproduct material or from gases given off during the roasting and smelting of sulphide minerals. Elemental sulphur is obtained only from sour natural gas. Production of sulphur and of sulphur compounds in terms of their sulphur content exceeded 600,000 tons in 1955. This is a record high and is over two and one-half times the production of 10 years ago.

The new sulphur and sulphuric acid plant of Noranda Mines Limited at Port Robinson, Ont., which uses byproduct pyrites as its raw material, came into production late in 1954 and in September 1955 a contract was let by Noranda Mines for the construction of the largest sulphuric acid plant in Canada at Cutler, Ont., on the north shore of Georgian Bay. This plant will supply sulphuric acid to the uranium mills of the Blind River district and sulphur to the pulp mills of Northern Ontario. The same process will be used as at Port Robinson and the estimated daily output will be 500 tons of sulphuric acid, 70 tons of elemental sulphur and 350 tons of pure iron sinter.

The production of elemental sulphur from sour gas in Western Canada is increasing rapidly. Shell Oil Company of Canada Limited has increased the capacity of its plant at Jumping Pound, Alta., to 80 tons a day. Canadian Gulf Oil Company has started construction on a new gas treatment and sulphur recovery plant at Pincher Creek, Alta., which, when completed in September 1956, will produce 225 tons of sulphur per day.