

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 1956-57*

Canada's thriving mineral industry reached its greatest rate of expansion in 1956, the most prosperous year in the industry's history. During the period under review, January 1956 to the end of June 1957, mineral development activity was centred mainly on a tremendous program of mine development and of plant construction. While the full impact of the resulting expansion in productive capacity remained to be felt, the program added greatly to the industry's economic status in 1956. The value of mineral output rose 15 p.c. over 1955 to a new high of \$2,068,000,000 or 7 p.c. of the value of Canada's gross national product for that year. A major contributor to Canada's export trade, the industry vied with forestry for top place in value of production exported. Foreign sales of primary ores, metals and minerals reached a value of \$1,300,000,000 and made up nearly 30 p.c. of the country's exports of all commodities. Crude petroleum exports exceeded \$100,000,000, three times that of 1955 while exports of iron ore rose 45 p.c. to \$144,443,000; developments under way in the non-ferrous base-metal field will make large new supplies of these metals available for export.

Of much significance to Canada's economic growth have been the rapid proving-up and development of its great wealth of iron ore and of its energy resources of crude petroleum, natural gas, and uranium. Crude petroleum production rose to a record 170,570,000 bbl. in 1956 and the first western Canadian oil reached Toronto markets with the extension of the Interprovincial pipeline from Sarnia to that area. Natural gas from the rich Fort St. John area of northeastern British Columbia will flow into southern British Columbia markets and into the United States to add millions to the value of Canada's export trade with the completion in 1957 of the \$152,000,000, 650-mile Westcoast Transmission natural gas pipeline. Eastern Canada is scheduled to be served with western Canadian gas for

* Except where otherwise indicated, this review was prepared under the direction of Dr. Marc Boyer, Deputy Minister of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, by Mary J. Giroux of the Department's Editorial and Information Staff.