

Columbia—and were treated in Company plants at Trail with custom ores and concentrates from other properties in the Province, from Yukon and from foreign shippers. Consolidated Mining and Smelting operates Canada's only lead smelter and one of its two zinc plants, the other being that of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited near Flin Flon in Manitoba. Other lead and zinc producers in British Columbia in 1956 included Giant Mascot Mines Limited, Canadian Exploration Limited, a subsidiary of Placer Development Limited, Reeves Macdonald Mines Limited, Sheep Creek Mines Limited, and Silbak Premier Mines Limited.

During the first six months of 1957, the Province's output of lead showed a slight increase over that of the same period in 1956 while its zinc production decreased 4 p.c. Consolidated Mining and Smelting closed its Sullivan open-pit mine in June 1957 and announced intentions of ceasing operations at Tulsequah Chief mine. Giant Mascot Mines stopped production in June because of the exhaustion of ore reserves.

The rise in the price of copper during 1955 and early 1956 resulted in a widespread search for new deposits and the development of several properties, ranging from potentially small to large-scale producers. British Columbia's copper output declined 4 p.c. in volume below 1955 but increased 8 p.c. in value. Production came from the Copper Mountain mine of The Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company Limited, the Britannia Beach operations of Britannia Mining and Smelting Company Limited and from the Tulsequah Chief copper-zinc-lead property. New copper production came early in 1957 from the Motherlode mine, a former copper producer near Greenwood, of Woodgreen Copper Mines Limited, and from the Velvet mine at Rossland of Mid-West Copper and Uranium Mines Limited. Companies preparing for production include Phoenix Copper Company Limited, a subsidiary of Granby, at Granby's former producing mine near Phoenix, and Granduc Mines Limited 25 miles northwest of Stewart. Several other companies had properties under active exploration, including American Smelting and Refining Company in Highland Valley, Cowichan Copper Company Limited on Vancouver Island, and Granisle Copper Limited, a Granby subsidiary, on an island in Babine Lake. Following the sharp drop in the price of copper during the first half of 1957, several companies which had been contemplating production decided to await more favourable market conditions.

With the exception of some 6,600 lb., British Columbia accounted for all the Canadian output of tungsten concentrates in 1956. Output comes from the Salmo operations of Canadian Exploration Company Limited, and in 1956 amounted to 2,200,000 lb. valued at \$6,050,000. The Company has a contract with the General Services Administration of the United States for a maximum of 570,000 short ton-units of tungsten trioxide from 1952 to June 30, 1958, at a price ranging from \$55 to \$60 a unit.

The Province's production of iron concentrates, which in 1956 totalled 331,000 long tons, is shipped to Japan. Output came from two properties: the Iron Hill mine of Utah Company of America on Vancouver Island, which was considered worked out and closed in December 1956, and the Texada Island property of Texada Mines Limited. A third company, Empire Development Company Limited, formed in mid-1956, plans to bring the Elk River magnetite deposit on northern Vancouver Island into production in the latter part of 1957. The Company has contracts with iron and steel interests in Japan for the shipment of 1,380,000 long tons of concentrate over a three-year period. The concentrates will be shipped from Port McNeil, 22 miles from the deposits. In July 1957, British Columbia was shipping iron concentrates to Japan at a rate of 2,000 tons monthly.

The Province in 1956 accounted for 32 p.c. of Canada's output of silver, amounting to 9,331,000 oz. t. valued at \$8,371,000. Most of the silver comes from base-metal operations, the chief source being the Sullivan mine.

Gold production in British Columbia in 1956 totalled 211,000 oz. t. valued at \$7,265,000. The three lode gold producers, Bralorne Mines Limited, The Cariboo Gold Quartz Mining Company Limited and Pioneer Gold Mines of B.C. Limited, accounted for 82 p.c. of the output. By-product gold from base-metal mining operations declined sharply, mainly because of the sizable drop in gold production at the Tulsequah mine.