

At the far northern end, west of Ungava Bay, Atlantic Iron Ores Limited and International Iron Ores Limited, both controlled by Cyrus S. Eaton interests of Cleveland, Ohio, and Oceanic Iron Ore of Canada Limited and Consolidated Fenimore Iron Mines Limited have outlined large reserves of concentrating-grade iron ore. The first two companies are negotiating with German steel interests for the sale of concentrates from their properties.

Most of Quebec's base-metal production comes from the western part of the Province, the chief source of output being the Horne mine of Noranda Mines Limited. The Province's output of copper jumped 21 p.c. in volume over 1955 to 244,918,000 lb. in 1956 and 36 p.c. in value to \$101,396,000 because of the high price of copper prevailing in 1956 and the addition of production from new properties. Zinc and lead showed declines in output below 1955, zinc decreasing from 202,862,000 lb. to 175,809,000 lb. and lead from 11,216,000 lb. to 5,629,000 lb.

Noranda Mines treats ore from its Horne mine and custom ores and concentrates from other copper, gold and silver mines. It recovers the copper and precious metals from the anodes at the electrolytic copper refinery of its subsidiary, Canadian Copper Refiners Limited, at Montreal East. Of the 101,406 tons of copper, 413,390 oz. t. of gold, and 2,280,400 oz. t. of silver produced by the Company in 1956, 26,308 tons of copper, 199,630 oz. t. of gold and 779,800 oz. t. of silver were credited to the Horne mine. Expansion initiated by Noranda in 1956 will raise its copper-smelting capacity from 240,000,000 lb. to 350,000,000 lb. a year and will open up a new open-pit operation nearby. The capacity of the Montreal East plant was raised from 17,000 tons to 21,000 tons of refined copper a month.

New copper production amounting to 55,234,000 lb. in 1956 came from Noranda's subsidiary, Gaspé Copper Mines Limited, on Gaspé peninsula, which had completed a 6,500-ton concentrator and smelter in 1955. Operations in 1956 were hampered by a three-month suspension in the supply of hydro-electric power and by a shortage of mine labour. In March 1957, production was again interrupted by a strike which ended early in October 1957. A mine and mill rate of about 4,000 tons a day had been reached prior to the strike. The anodes are shipped to the refinery at Montreal East.

New production also came from the Chibougamau area which is shaping into one of Canada's major copper-producing areas. Output from the new 450-ton mill of Chibougamau Explorers Limited, Campbell Chibougamau Mines Limited, the area's largest producer, and Opemiska Copper Mines (Quebec) Limited was at a rate of well over 50,000,000 lb. a year at the end of the review period. Several other properties in the area were under development, some of which were near the production stage. One of these, Merrill Island Mining Corporation Limited had a 650-ton plant under construction on its property in Doré Lake.

Copper production in western Quebec came from the copper-zinc ores of Waite Amulet Mines Limited, Quemont Mining Corporation Limited, East Sullivan Mines Limited, Normetal Mining Corporation Limited, Golden Manitou Mines Limited; from the new copper-gold mine of Rainville Mines Limited, 16 miles east of Val d'Or; from Beattie-Duquesne Mines Limited at Duparquet, which modified its gold mill to produce copper concentrates from its Hunter mine, and from Lyndhurst Mining Company Limited which started shipping ore to the Beattie-Duquesne mill. The remainder came from the operations of Weedon Pyrite and Copper Corporation Limited and Quebec Copper Corporation Limited in southern Quebec. Ascot Metals Corporation Limited closed its zinc-lead-copper Suffield mine near Sherbrooke owing to exhaustion of commercial ore.

Barvue Mines Limited, a zinc-silver producer in Barraute township of western Quebec, accounted for 48,602,000 lb. of zinc, the largest zinc output in Quebec in 1956. This was a decline of 22,822,000 lb. from the Company's production in 1955. The conversion from open-pit to underground mining was completed, with underground production scheduled at 3,000 tons daily compared to 4,000 tons a day from open-pit operations. Operations at the property ceased early in October 1957.