

producing countries of the world. World demand for the principal non-ferrous base metals generally continued strong throughout the year and, with the exception of copper, prices held fairly steady.

The value of non-metallics increased 18.2 p.c. in 1956 to \$171,200,000. Of this total, \$109,700,000 was accounted for by asbestos. While the tonnage of that product was about 2.3 p.c. lower than in 1955, higher prices for certain grades resulted in an increase in value of 14.0 p.c. Most of the other non-metallics increased in value. Salt was up by 37.5 p.c., gypsum by 3.3 p.c. and recoveries of titanium dioxide slag by 30.4 p.c.

The value of mineral fuels was up 24.3 p.c. to \$514,800,000, with crude petroleum accounting for 78.1 p.c. of the total. Crude petroleum has been Canada's leading mineral product since 1953 and in 1956 accounted for almost one-fifth of the entire mineral production value of the country. A 69.7-p.c. increase in output in Saskatchewan, 42.0 p.c. in Manitoba and 27.7 p.c. in Alberta boosted Canada's production to a record total of 170,600,000 bbl. valued at \$401,800,000. The downward trend in coal production was checked in 1956 when tonnage increased slightly to 14,900,000 valued at \$95,500,000. Output of natural gas increased to a new high of 173,300,000 M cu. feet valued at \$17,500,000.

Demand for structural materials continued to expand and the value of output increased 8.3 p.c. in 1956 to \$247,300,000. Portland cement was up 18.6 p.c., clay products such as brick and tile 7.9 p.c. and sand and gravel about 7.2 p.c. The value of stone and lime was down slightly.

