

Iron Ore.—In 1957, a slackening in United States steel production and a 15-p.c. gain in ore stocks on both sides of the international border caused a levelling-off in Canadian shipments of iron ore. By the end of 1958, production had declined some \$46,000,000 from the previous year, though prospects for the future looked brighter as the United States steel industry began to recover.

Production in 1957 fell slightly from that of 1956 to 22,272,174 short tons valued at \$167,221,425, and in 1958 to 15,878,481 short tons at \$121,437,285. Quebec, the leading producer (8,872,948 short tons of iron ore at \$65,805,057) registered an increase both in production volume and in value in 1957. Newfoundland's production (8,174,779 short tons at \$57,898,102) levelled off slightly and Ontario's (4,867,105 short tons at \$41,317,629) showed a decline. Preliminary figures for 1958 show further declines in all three provinces.

In 1957, Iron Ore Company of Canada, based at Schefferville, Que., and operating in Newfoundland (Labrador) and New Quebec, shipped 12,435,712 long tons (2,240 lb.) of direct-shipping ore. Noranda Mines Limited, with mines in Quebec's Noranda area and a sinter plant at Port Robinson, Ont., accounted for 40,952 long tons of iron-oxide sinter. And Quebec Iron and Titanium Corporation, with a mine at Allard Lake and a smelter at Sorel, shipped 167,437 long tons of remelt iron. In 1957, Dominion Wabana Ore Limited, Bell Island, Nfld., sent out 2,879,019 long tons of heavy-media concentrates.

Ontario's iron ore output in 1957 was 691,098 short tons or \$2,859,617 below the 1956 level. Producers were: Marmoraton Mining Company Limited, Marmora (452,710 long tons of pelletized magnetite concentrate); Clarken Development Limited, 16 miles west of Millbridge Station in Hastings county (41 long tons of magnetite concentrate); Algoma Ore Properties Limited, mines and sinter plant near Jamestown (1,600,630 long tons of iron-oxide sinter); Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited, Steep Rock Lake near Atikokan (2,370,770 long tons of direct-shipping ore); and The International Nickel Company of Canada Limited, with mines in the Sudbury area and plant at Copper Cliff (113,099 long tons of iron-oxide pellets).

The volume of production in British Columbia dropped by 12,612 short tons in 1957 to 357,342, but the value increased by \$9,790 to \$2,200,637. Producers, whose shipments consisted of magnetite concentrate, were: Texada Mines Limited, Texada Island (178,572 long tons); Argonaut Mine Division of Utah Company of the Americas, Quinsam Lake, Vancouver Island (70,929 long tons); and Empire Development Company Limited, Elk River deposit, near the north end of Vancouver Island (an estimated 75,000 long tons).

Despite the uncertainty of the market, the exploration and development of iron-bearing properties in 1957-58 remained at a healthy level—especially in Quebec-Labrador. Iron Ore Company of Canada gave particular attention to the Wabush Lake area, where its holdings were estimated at over 1,000,000,000 tons of concentrating-grade ore. In the same area Wabush Iron Company Limited carried out preliminary surveys and late in 1958 accepted contracts for the construction of a 42-mile railway.

Quebec Cartier Mining Company made definite plans to mine its Lac Jeannine deposit where a specularite-bearing iron formation will provide some 20,000,000 tons of iron ore annually. In 1957 the company completed 160 miles of a truck-access road northward from Shelter Bay to its Mount Reed property and the following year called for bids for the construction of a 187-mile railroad from Shelter Bay, a hydro-electric power dam and other surface facilities. The company, along with others, continued to investigate claims in the Mount Reed and Mount Wright areas a few miles north and east of Lac Jeannine.

At Hopes Advance Bay in the Ungava Bay area, Ungava Iron Ores Company carried out extensive drilling and mapping. Plans called for three producing mines, with production scheduled for 1963. Near Shawville, Que., the Hilton mines made their first shipment of high-grade iron-oxide pellets early in 1958 and later opened a beneficiating plant rated at 600,000 tons a year. Other areas of active exploratory interest in Quebec included Montgolfier township, 60 miles north of Taschereau; Albabel Lake, 100 miles northeast of Chibougamau; and an area 35 miles inland from Hudson Bay. In the autumn of 1958,