

Salt is produced in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, though only in Nova Scotia and Ontario is it being mined. There are twelve plants operated by seven firms in the Canadian industry.

Fluorspar.—Until 1956, fluorspar mining was a flourishing industry in Newfoundland and Ontario. Over 55 p.c. of the production was exported to the United States chiefly for stockpiling purposes. Stockpiling needs are now filled and value of production dropped from \$3,407,582 in 1956 to \$1,552,255 in 1958. Imports of low-cost fluorspar from Mexico have displaced much of the Canadian fluorspar in the domestic market and what was formerly the largest producer—St. Lawrence Corporation of Newfoundland Limited—closed down its mine at St. Lawrence, Nfld., in 1957. The other large producer—Newfoundland Fluorspar Limited—is a subsidiary of Aluminum Company of Canada and operates to supply the requirements of the parent company. The third producer Huntingdon Fluorspar Mines Limited at Madoc, Ont., produces small quantities of high-grade fluorspar for metallurgical purposes.

Spodumene.—Production of lithia concentrates from spodumene by Quebec Lithium Corporation at Val d'Or, Que., was valued at \$2,643,950 in 1956, rose to \$2,827,143 in 1957 and dropped to \$2,030,000 in 1958. Almost the entire output of the company was sold under contract to Lithium Corporation of America at Bessemer City, North Carolina, for processing for use by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Following the slowing down in purchases from the United States, the Canadian company plans experimentation in a large pilot plant at Val d'Or with the object of processing spodumene concentrates into lithium chemicals and of developing its own sales outlets direct to consumers.

Uses for both lithium minerals and for fluorspar are expanding. In particular, much is being heard of the use of liquid fluorine as a fuel in a new rocket engine where it is hailed as a major breakthrough in chemical fuels for rockets, displacing boron for the purpose. Its use in quantity as a high-energy propellant is claimed to be close at hand.

Subsection 3.—Petroleum and Natural Gas*

As a result of decreased demand for petroleum and its products, development of Canada's petroleum resources slackened towards the end of 1957 for the first time since the 1947 Leduc discovery. Interest in natural gas development, however, softened the downward trend in the industry. Nevertheless, during the first three-quarters of the year more petroleum and natural gas were produced than ever before and reserves of both commodities continued to rise. At the end of 1957 reserves of crude oil and natural gas liquids totalled 3,269,114,000 bbl., an increase of 139,810,000 bbl. over the previous year. Natural gas reserves increased by 500,000,000,000 cu. feet to over 25,000,000,000,000 cu. feet at the end of 1957. Crude oil has, since 1953, maintained the lead in annual production value among all minerals produced in Canada. Natural gas will add appreciably to this total, beginning in 1958 when the two major gas transmission lines were completed, connecting the gas sources in the West to markets from the Pacific to as far east as the province of Quebec. Production of crude oil was a record in 1957 but the increase over the previous high in 1956 was only 5 p.c.; production in 1958 was about 8 p.c. lower than in 1957.

The size and rate of recent growth of crude oil production in Western Canada is indicated by the following data:—

<i>Item and Date</i>	<i>Alberta</i>	<i>Saskatchewan</i>	<i>Manitoba</i>	<i>British Columbia</i>
NUMBER OF OIL FIELDS—				
December 1954	65	30	6	0
December 1955	74	37	11	1
December 1956	86	46	12	2
December 1957	89	39	12	4

* Prepared under the direction of Dr. Marc Boyer, Deputy Minister of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, by R. A. Simpson, Mineral Resources Division. A survey of oil and gas pipelines will be found in the Transportation Chapter.