

Ontario.—The Ontario Department of Mines renders a multiplicity of services of direct assistance to the mining industry within the province, as briefly enumerated below.

Mining Lands Branch.—This Branch handles all matters dealing with the recording of mining claims, assessment work, etc., and the final issuance of title to mining lands. As a service to the mining public, individual township maps are prepared and kept up to date showing lands open for staking and recorded and patented claims therein. As new surveys are made or later data become available maps are revised in keeping with such information. District Mining Recorders maintain offices at strategic locations throughout the province.

Geological Branch.—A continuing program of geological mapping and investigation is carried out by the geological staff of the Department. Detailed reports and geological maps of the areas studied are made available to the public. In many of the active areas of the province resident geologists are engaged to gather and make available to the public information concerning geological conditions, exploration and development within their respective districts. One geologist specializing in industrial minerals is maintained on the staff to examine deposits of this type, to investigate methods of treatment and recovery of such minerals and to compile data on the uses, specifications and markets for such products. Collection and dissemination of information on groundwater resources is also a function of the Geological Branch. During the winter months courses of instruction for prospectors are held in various centres throughout the province.

Laboratories Branch.—The Provincial Assay Office located in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, carries out wet analyses and assays of metal and rock constituents on a custom fee basis and also renders the same service free of charge to holders of valid assay coupons issued for the performance of assessment work on mining claims. The Timiskaming Testing Laboratories situated at Cobalt, in addition to performing fire assays and chemical analyses, conducts a bulk sampling plant mainly to assist the producers of the area in the marketing of the cobalt-silver ores. A Cable Testing Laboratory, wherein all hoisting ropes in use at the mines are periodically tested, is operated under the supervision of the Inspection Branch.

Inspection Branch.—The main function of this Branch is the regular examination of all operating mines, quarries, sand and gravel pits and certain metallurgical works with a view to ensuring proper conditions of health and safety to the men employed. District offices to serve the local areas are maintained in the major mining centres of the province. Mine rescue stations in the principal mining sections are operated under the supervision of the Inspection Branch.

Exhibitions.—The Department each year presents displays pertaining to mining within the province at such exhibitions as the Canadian National at Toronto and at other centres from time to time.

Publications Branch.—All maps and reports of the Department are distributed through the agency of the Publications Branch located at the main office of the Department.

Library.—A mining library for the use of the Department and the public is maintained within the Department. This library is comprised mainly of publications and maps of the Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada as well as of numerous periodicals and bulletins from the United States.

Mining and Access Roads.—In 1951 the Department of Mines undertook a program of road construction in the mineralized areas of the province, to open them for prospecting and development and to facilitate the actual operation of mining enterprises. When the importance of this program in its relation to the whole development of northern Ontario became apparent, the Government decided that its scope should be widened and, with that end in view, an interdepartmental committee was set up early in 1955 to decide