

# CHAPTER XI.—MINES AND MINERALS

## CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

### Section 1.—Canada's Mineral Industry 1958-59\*

Following the high point of \$2,190,322,392 reached in 1957, the value of mineral production declined slightly in 1958 but in 1959 the industry again assumed a steady rate of expansion and the value for that year reached an estimated \$2,400,000,000, a new record. Increased output of nickel, iron ore, copper, uranium, petroleum and asbestos accounted for most of the 1959 advance; the only significant declines were in gold, lead, tungsten and coal. Production increases occurred in each of the sectors of Canada's mineral industry in 1959, but the metallic minerals accounted for approximately 80 p.c. of the total increase. The metals made up 57 p.c. of the total value of Canada's mineral output, mineral fuels 23 p.c., structural materials 13 p.c. and non-metallics 7 p.c. The relative production values of these groups of minerals have not varied appreciably throughout the past decade, during which time the total value of mineral production rose from the 1949 level of \$900,000,000.

In output values, uranium, nickel, copper, iron ore, gold, zinc, lead and silver, in that order, were the most important metallic minerals in 1959 and accounted for 97 p.c. of the total value of the metal production. Although the outstanding growth rate in uranium output continued into 1959 when an all-time high of \$324,549,609 was reached, the United States Atomic Energy Commission announced late in 1959 that it would not exercise its options for the purchase of Canadian uranium after 1962. This led to a 'stretch-out' production plan for Canadian uranium producers for the period 1960-66. Consequently, the level of uranium production reached in 1959 may not be exceeded for many years. The nickel industry, which suffered a setback in 1958 as a result of a strike that lasted three months, operated at close to capacity in 1959. Producers are carrying

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