

out considerable research to find new uses and markets for the metal. The copper industry also had a good year following difficulties in 1958 resulting from a world surplus. Price increases accompanied the rise in demand and production was resumed at some mines that had been closed since 1957.

From a resource development point of view, the iron ore industry continued to be one of the most favourable sectors of the Canadian economy. The 1959 shipments of 24,477,004 tons, 55 p.c. higher than those of 1958, seem likely to be doubled by 1965. Mine development under way in Quebec and Labrador will ensure a continuation of the rapid expansion in the industry. The import quotas on lead and zinc imposed by the United States in 1958 require that imports from Canada be reduced by 20 p.c. from the average of the period 1953-57. This restriction, along with lower prices, proved to be a hardship for Canadian producers. However, the price of zinc and the general market outlook improved for this metal in 1959. Gold production declined slightly in quantity in 1959 and the higher premium on the Canadian dollar lowered the domestic price of gold; consequently, the total value of output declined by approximately \$6,000,000. Silver production increased in 1958 and again in 1959.

In recent years asbestos has accounted for about 60 p.c. of the total value of output of the non-metallic group of minerals. Asbestos production in 1959 recovered from the setback experienced in 1958 and this recovery was accompanied by promising property developments in Newfoundland. Crude petroleum, Canada's leading mineral in point of annual value, suffered its first decline in production in 1958 after an unprecedented period of expansion following the Leduc, Alta., oil discovery of 1947. Somewhat improved markets in 1959 placed the crude oil industry again on a rising production trend. Natural gas resource development proceeded rapidly in 1958 and 1959 in anticipation of greatly increased export markets. Coal production continued the steady decline experienced throughout the 1950's. Cement, sand and gravel accounted for about two-thirds of the value of structural materials produced in 1958 and 1959. Unlike most other minerals, which are greatly affected by export market conditions, the structural materials continued to exhibit a growth rate that closely paralleled the expansion of the domestic economy.

The future holds much promise for the development of Canada's mineral wealth. Exploratory work of the past decade has greatly extended the country's mineral resource potential and production. Canada now leads the world in the production of nickel and asbestos and is a very close runner-up in the production of zinc and uranium. This country has a firmly established second place in the production of aluminum, platinum metals, gypsum and bismuth; it is third in the production of cadmium, gold, silver and titanium ores; and fourth in the production of magnesium, molybdenum, iron ore, barite and cobalt. In a world of rapidly growing population and rising standards of living in many regions, mineral demand over the long term can be expected to provide much opportunity for the continuing growth of the Canadian mineral economy, provided that production efficiency is constantly improved and all-important export markets are not unduly restricted.

Subsection 1.—Metals*

Uranium.—The value of uranium production exceeded that of any other metal in 1958 and 1959 as a result of the unprecedented rate of mine development that has characterized this new industry since 1955. Output of uranium oxide soared from 6,636 tons valued at \$136,304,364 in 1957 to 13,403 tons valued at \$279,538,471 in 1958 and to 15,497 tons valued at \$324,549,609 in 1959. However, this is the highest annual output that can be expected for some time.

The net result of the tremendous growth of the industry in the Western World is an over-supply of uranium. In 1959 the United States, the principal market for Canadian uranium, decided not to continue to purchase any from Canada in excess of its commit-

* The figures for 1958 in this Subsection are final but those for 1959, as well as some pertaining to individual companies in both years, are subject to revision.