

The price of prime western zinc was 10 cents a pound from the beginning of 1958 to early October when it was increased to 10½ cents. By the middle of November the price reached 11½ cents a pound where it held for the remainder of the year. Early in January 1959 the price advanced to 11¾ cents a pound and by mid-October, after several declines and advances, it reached 12¾ cents where it stayed for the remainder of the year. Zinc output in 1959 was 394,458 tons valued at \$96,563,324 compared to the 1958 output of 425,099 tons valued at \$92,501,496.

Exports in 1958 of refined zinc and zinc in concentrates totalled 413,531 tons compared to 389,148 tons in 1957. The United States was by far the largest importer, receiving 95,395 tons of refined zinc and 162,849 tons of zinc in concentrates. The United Kingdom was the next largest importer, receiving 83,854 tons of refined zinc. Other important importers were Belgium and Norway which together imported 26,733 tons of zinc in concentrates. Altogether some 17 countries imported zinc from Canada. Compared with 1958, estimated exports of zinc during 1959 indicate a drop of about 10 p.c.

Canadian consumption of all forms of lead in 1958 was 84,646 tons compared with 81,183 tons in 1957. Zinc consumption increased from 54,420 tons in 1957 to 57,542 tons in 1958. Preliminary data for 1959 show that a large increase in zinc consumption occurred but that lead consumption decreased.

British Columbia mines accounted for about 80 p.c. of Canada's lead production and 51 p.c. of the zinc production in 1958-59. The principal producer of both metals is the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited (Cominco), operator of the Sullivan mine and 11,000-ton mill at Kimberley, the Bluebell mine and 500-ton mill at Riodel, and the H.B. mine and 1,000-ton mill at Salmo. Concentrates from all of Cominco's mines and those from other mines in British Columbia, Yukon and some foreign areas were treated at the company's smelter at Trail. Other important British Columbia producers of lead and zinc in 1958-59 included: Canadian Exploration Limited and Reeves MacDonald Mines Limited, both near Salmo; Sheep Creek Mines Limited, west of Invermere; and Howe Sound Company Limited, north of Vancouver. Torbrit Silver Mines Limited, north of Prince Rupert, produced lead but no zinc. The company ceased mining and milling in October 1959, however, owing to lack of ore. The Britannia copper-zinc mine operated by Howe Sound was reopened in January 1959 after being closed for nine months.

United Keno Hill Mines Limited was the only important producer of lead and zinc in the Yukon. Commercial production from its Elsa mine commenced in 1958.

In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited is the only producer of zinc. Four mines near Flin Flon produce ore for treatment at the Flin Flon concentrator. One of these, the North Star, was closed in March 1958 following the mining out of the orebody. The company's electrolytic zinc plant at Flin Flon operated at close to its rated capacity of 190 tons a day in 1959. No lead is produced in the two provinces.

In Ontario, zinc concentrates and a small amount of lead concentrates were produced by Geco Mines Limited and Willroy Mines Limited in the Manitouwadge district, north of Lake Superior.

The principal sources of zinc concentrates in Quebec in 1958-59 were: the copper-zinc mines in the Noranda-Val d'Or district operated by Quemont Mining Corporation Limited; Manitou-Barvue Mines Limited; Normetal Mining Corporation Limited; and Waite-Amulet Mines Limited. Quebec's main lead producer was New Calumet Mines Limited whose mine is 70 miles west of Ottawa. Manitou-Barvue also produced lead concentrates. The West MacDonald mine in Dufresnay township, operated by West MacDonald Mines Limited, and the Weedon mine, about 40 miles northeast of Sherbrooke, operated by Weedon Mining Corporation Limited, produced some zinc in 1958 but both were closed in 1959.

In the Atlantic Provinces, the Buchans unit of American Smelting and Refining Company Limited in Newfoundland remained the only producer in 1958-59 after Heath Steele Mines Limited ceased operating its mine near Newcastle, N.B., in March 1958.