

Exploration and development activities during 1958-59 were centred in the Snow Lake area of Manitoba, 70 miles east of Flin Flon, and in the Watson Lake area of Quebec, 100 miles north of Senneterre. Two properties in the Snow Lake area owned by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited are scheduled for production in 1960. Several large deposits containing mainly zinc and copper values and over 23,000,000 tons of ore have been outlined in the Watson Lake area by diamond drilling.

Silver.—Canada's silver production in 1959 was 32,329,137 oz. t. valued at \$28,381,750 compared with 31,163,470 oz. t. in 1958 valued at \$27,053,007. Practically all of the 1959 increase came from British Columbia and the Yukon, their total production being 1,147,196 oz. t. greater than in 1958. Significant increases in silver recovery from lead-zinc ores in British Columbia and the mining of richer silver ore at the United Keno Hill mines in the Yukon account for most of the greater recovery.

The three leading silver producing countries in 1958 were Mexico (47,000,000 oz. t.), United States (36,800,000 oz. t.) and Canada (31,200,000 oz. t.). Silver consumption in Canada in 1958 declined to 8,600,000 oz. t., 1,100,000 less than in 1957. The arts and industries required 3,900,000 oz. t. and the remainder was used in coinage. Final figures for world consumption of silver in 1959 are not available, but preliminary returns indicate that world demand in the latter part of 1959 was far greater than in corresponding periods of previous years.

Most of Canada's silver output is recovered as a by-product of base-metal ores treated at smelters in Canada and abroad. The principal producer is the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited (Cominco) which recovers silver in the refined form from lead-zinc and silver-lead-zinc ores treated at Trail, B.C. Cominco in 1958 produced 12,875,160 oz. t. of silver, equal to about 41 p.c. of the total Canadian production. Other important producers of silver are: the copper refinery in Montreal East, Que., operated by Canadian Copper Refiners Limited; the silver-cobalt refinery at Deloro, Ont., operated by Deloro Smelting and Refining Company Limited; the copper refinery at Copper Cliff, Ont., operated by the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited; and the gold bullion refineries at Timmins and Ottawa, Ont., operated by Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines Limited and the Royal Canadian Mint, respectively.

United Keno Hill Mines Limited, Canada's largest single source of silver, produced about 7,308,000 oz. t. of the metal in the year ended Sept. 30, 1959—a new record. Production during the corresponding period in 1957-58 was 5,984,373 oz. t. The increase was attributable to the high-grade ore mined from the company's Elsa mine which completed its first full year of commercial production about mid-1959. Other leading silver producing companies were Highland-Bell Limited and Torbrit Silver Mines Limited, both in British Columbia, and Agnico Mines Limited and Siscoe Metals of Ontario Limited, both in Ontario. These four companies in 1958 together produced 5,212,090 oz. t. The Torbrit silver mine was closed in October 1959 owing to exhaustion of ore reserves after more than nine years of almost continuous operation.

The average Canadian price of silver in 1959 was 87.82 cents an oz. t. compared with 86.78 cents in 1958.

Platinum.—Canada is the second largest producer of the platinum group of metals, following the Union of South Africa. The output is derived from the smelting and refining of nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury district of Ontario. International Nickel and Falconbridge Nickel are the main producers, recovering the refined metals at their respective refineries near London, England, and Newark, New Jersey. Output of platinum in 1959 was 149,510 oz. t. valued at \$10,951,608 while in 1958 it was 146,092 oz. t. valued at \$9,481,371. Recent production of platinum is considerably lower than the postwar high of 199,565 oz. t. reached in 1957. Output of other metals of the platinum group in 1959 was 170,160 oz. t. valued at \$5,662,499 while in 1958 it was 154,366 oz. t. with a value of \$4,840,072.