

The output of Canadian cement plants increased 2.3 p.c. in 1959 to 6,300,000 tons. For a number of years following World War II, considerable quantities of this commodity were imported into Canada; today, imports are insignificant and the industry is exporting about 5 p.c. of its production to the United States. A major development in 1959 was the construction of a large plant at Montreal by the firm Miron et Frères Ltée. A 500-by-15 ft. rotary kiln, the largest in Canada, with a capacity of 4,000,000 bbl. of clinker annually, was installed. This new operation raised the number of cement plants in Canada to 19 and their combined capacity to more than 8,500,000 tons annually. Saskatchewan Cement Corporation Limited completed a \$1,000,000 addition to its plant near Regina, and the capacity of the Edmonton plant of Inland Cement Company Limited was increased by 50 p.c.

In recent years the consumption of 'ready mixed' concrete has grown remarkably and more than 25 p.c. of all the cement used in Canada is now marketed in this form.

Crushed stone, sand and gravel used by the construction industry were produced in 1959 to a value of more than \$151,000,000, substantially the same as in 1958. This industry is being kept active by the accelerated road-building programs under way throughout the country.

In the lightweight aggregate industry, two new plants came into production during 1959. At St. François du Lac near Sorel, Que., Featherock Incorporated began operating, at mid-year, a two-kiln plant using local clay and producing a coated aggregate. Late in the year British Columbia Lightweight Aggregates Limited completed a one-kiln plant on Saturna Island east of Sidney, B.C.

The clay products industry reported an 8-p.c. gain over 1958 with a value of production exceeding \$45,000,000, a new record. To keep up with the demand for building-brick, a new tunnel kiln was installed at the Laprairie plant of Cooksville-Laprairie Brick Limited, and a new tunnel kiln plant was erected at Hamilton, Ont., by Diamond Clay Products Limited. New equipment was installed by Medicine Hat Brick and Tile Company Limited for the manufacture of coloured, glazed-face brick. Production of this type of brick, the first in Western Canada for many years, reflects the use of more decorative types of brick and tile in keeping with modern trends in architectural design.

Subsection 3.—Petroleum and Natural Gas

The petroleum and natural gas industry resumed its customary rate of growth in 1959 after the setback in 1958, the first that had occurred in more than a decade. Production of crude oil and natural gas reached record levels in 1959 and the production advances were reflected in increased pipeline deliveries and higher domestic sales. In 1959 a total of 184,500,000 bbl. of crude oil valued at \$427,000,000 and of 427,804,000,000 cu. feet of natural gas valued at \$40,000,000 were produced. Exploration as a whole continued to decline slightly as a result of the large proportion of shut-in production capacity awaiting greater market outlets. The total geophysical crew-months worked in 1959 amounted to 825, down 22 p.c. from 1958 and 38 p.c. from 1957. Exploratory drilling activity was maintained and about 900 wells were completed. The most active exploratory areas were in the foothills region of Alberta and in northeastern British Columbia, where natural gas search was under way, and northwest of Edmonton in Alberta where oil discovery was the chief objective. Despite the over-all decline in exploratory activity, more emphasis than ever before was placed on exploration in areas where natural gas is more likely to be found. This was being done in anticipation of increased sales as markets in Eastern Canada and British Columbia expand and because of the prospect of increased exports to the United States.

Reserves of petroleum and natural gas were raised substantially. At the end of 1959 reserves of crude oil totalled 3,400,000,000 bbl. and proved recoverable reserves of natural gas amounted to 26,600,000,000 cu. feet.