

Nickel, copper, uranium, iron ore, gold, zinc, lead and silver, in that order, were the leading metallic minerals in output value in 1960 and accounted for about 96 p.c. of the total value of the metallics output. Nickel developments, both domestic and foreign, pre-empt an even more dominant position for Canadian nickel in the years ahead than the 70 p.c. of the Free World's total supply that has been contributed in recent years. Developments at Thompson in northern Manitoba will make that area, with its production capacity of 75,000,000 lb. a year, second in the world only to the Sudbury area with an annual capacity of 375,000,000 lb. Copper output was at an all-time high despite apparent over-supply in world markets which resulted in price declines in the last quarter of 1960. The market outlook at the year-end was uncertain because of abundant world supply and lower prices. Uranium production declined to 25,034,889 lb. of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) from the record output of 31,784,189 lb. in 1959. Canadian producers instituted a 'stretch-out' program for uranium in 1960 to allow some mines to remain in production until the end of 1966 to fill existing purchase contracts with the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC). This action resulted from the announcement of Nov. 6, 1959 that the USAEC would not exercise its option to purchase Canadian uranium after Mar. 31, 1962.

Iron ore shipments to the United States decreased in the latter half of 1960 as a result of much-reduced steel operating rates in that country, so that total shipments in 1960 declined to 21,507,783 tons from the record high of 24,488,325 tons set the previous year. Shipments to the United Kingdom and Western Europe increased in both tonnage and value over those of 1959. Gold production increased slightly and, with a return to near-parity of the Canadian dollar in relation to the United States dollar at the end of 1960, the outlook for gold producers became more encouraging than it had been for many years. The Federal Government, in 1960, extended the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act three years to the end of 1963. The import quotas on unmanufactured lead and zinc, imposed by the United States Government on Sept. 22, 1958, continued throughout 1960. Despite the United States import restrictions and general world over-supply, Canadian production of both lead and zinc showed modest increases in 1960 over the previous year.

In the industrial minerals field, asbestos shipments increased to 1,140,538 tons valued at \$118,700,998, about 10 p.c. above the previous year's record output. It appears that Russian asbestos production capacity now is about equal to Canada's. About 90 p.c. of Canadian production comes from 13 mines in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, the remainder from a mine at Matheson, Ont., and one at Cassiar, B.C. Canada is becoming a major producer of sulphur through the production of natural gas in Western Canada and now ranks fourth in the Free World production of sulphur in all forms, with total output in 1960 of about 1,000,000 tons. The value of titanium dioxide slag shipped from the electric smelter at Sorel, Que., reached a record \$14,257,292, up from \$8,507,149 in 1959. In addition, remelt iron valued at nearly \$11,000,000 was recovered from the smelting of ilmenite at the Sorel smelter. The production of structural materials used in all types of construction was only slightly below the all-time record attained in 1959 and reflected a slight decline in building activity during 1960.

Since 1953, crude petroleum has been the largest single contributor to Canada's mineral output. Production in 1960, at 192,308,250 bbl. valued at \$432,495,700, was only slightly above the 184,778,497 bbl. valued at \$422,092,535 produced the previous year. Alberta continued to contribute about 70 p.c. of the total supply and Saskatchewan over 25 p.c. Natural gas production registered a 20.9-p.c. increase over that of 1959 to 504,452,000 Mcf. valued at \$48,027,110. About 73 p.c. came from Alberta and most of the remainder from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Significant gas discoveries continued to be made in northeastern British Columbia and known gas fields in Alberta and Saskatchewan were extended. Coal output in 1960 increased slightly to 11,226,420 tons valued at \$76,059,631 and reversed the trend of decreased shipments that had prevailed for many years. The average annual rate of decline in coal production since 1950 has been 10 p.c. because of increased use of petroleum products and natural gas for industrial and domestic purposes.