

of construction. It is estimated that annual capacity will reach 1,500,000 tons of elemental sulphur by the end of 1961.

The California Standard Company plant at Nevis, Alta., went on stream early in 1960 with an annual capacity of 40,000 tons; local gas is fed to this plant. By the year end, the British American Oil Company Limited was completing a 250-ton-per-day plant at Homeglen-Rimbey, south of Edmonton, and the Canadian Oil Companies Limited were completing a 110-ton-per-day plant at Innisfail, Alta. Late in the year, plans were announced for the construction of two large plants in southern Alberta by Jefferson Lake Petrochemicals of Canada Limited and Shell Oil Company of Canada Limited at east Calgary and Waterton Park, respectively. The combined output potential of these two plants will be more than 2,000 tons daily.

**Other Minerals.**—Canadian production of barite was more than a third lower in 1960 than in 1959, reflecting competition in export markets from Mexico, Peru and Greece. Normally, 90 p.c. of this country's production is exported. A new plant was completed at Onoway, Alta., by Baroid of Canada Limited for the processing of barite and bentonite for the oil industry in Western Canada.

Standard Lime Company Limited increased capacity of its Joliette, Que., facilities for the production of high-calcium lime. A new plant incorporating a 200-ton-per-day rotary kiln was constructed at a cost of \$1,000,000.

By the end of 1960, Quebec Lithium Corporation had almost completed, at its mine site near Barraute, Que., a new plant for the production of lithium carbonate from decrepitated spodumene concentrates. This is the first such facility to be established in Canada. The company is planning to resume milling, after a year-long interruption, to produce glass-grade material.

### Subsection 3.—Petroleum and Natural Gas

For the petroleum and natural gas industry, 1960 was a better year than 1959. New production and value records were set. Crude oil output at 192,308,250 bbl. was about 4 p.c. higher than the previous high of 184,778,497 bbl. produced in 1959 and the value of crude oil production at \$432,495,700 was moderately above the 1959 value of \$422,092,535. Although the value of natural gas produced in Canada is well below that of crude oil, the percentage gain in 1960 was much greater—production at 504,500,000 Mcf. was 21 p.c. above 1959 production and there was a corresponding rise in value to \$48,027,110.

The shift westward and northward in exploration continued during 1960, Manitoba and Saskatchewan attracting less exploration activity than in preceding years. Altogether, 2,446 wells were drilled in 1960, somewhat fewer than in 1959, but there was a higher rate of new discoveries in drilling, with 120 indicated oil and gas finds. The greater ratio of gas to oil discoveries than in previous years reflected the increased interest in natural gas search following Federal Government permission to export about 1,000 Mcf. of gas per day to the United States. The average depth of wells drilled in 1960 was 5,455 feet, about 400 feet more than in 1959; this is indicative of the greater depth necessary to reach potentially productive sedimentary strata in British Columbia and in the foothills area of Alberta. Canada's deepest oil well was completed at Fording Mountain, B.C., at a depth of 16,540 feet.

A moderate increase in petroleum and natural gas reserves was recorded in 1960. At the end of the year, crude oil reserves were placed at 3,700,000,000 bbl. and proved recoverable reserves of natural gas were conservatively estimated to be 26,900,000,000 Mcf. Capital investment in Canadian petroleum and natural gas industries during 1960 amounted to \$649,300,000, including expenditures on exploration, development, production, pipe lines, gas processing, petroleum refining and marketing. The rate and scale of development in the petroleum and natural gas industry of Western Canada in recent years is indicated by the production data in Table 1.