

Other companies are active in exploring and developing the deposits in Western Canada. Standard Chemical Ltd. is studying the possibility of recovering potash by solution mining near Moose Jaw. Solution mining is commonly used in recovering salt from bedded deposits and has the advantage of not requiring large capital expenditures in shaft construction and underground mine development.

Future markets for Canadian potash are bright. The need for food for an expanding world population is reflected in steadily increasing world consumption of potash, one of the three leading fertilizer constituents. Growth in North American consumption is about equal to the production of one modest-sized mine annually. Although new potash areas are being developed in Jordan, Ethiopia and elsewhere, Canada may be expected to supply an important share of the world market in the future.

Sulphur.—With the development of natural gas fields in the western provinces, Canada has emerged as a major source of elemental sulphur. Until 1952, Canada's requirements for the elemental form were supplied by imports and, while imports are still necessary to meet demands in Eastern Canada, large-scale exports are required to market Western Canada production recovered as a by-product of natural gas processing. Based on estimates of gas reserves, the potential for recovery is between 150,000,000 and 300,000,000 tons of sulphur.

During 1961, 910,000 tons (both elemental and sulphur equivalent of smelter gases and pyrite) were shipped to consumers or used by producers in their own processes; 44 p.c. of the total was elemental sulphur. By the end of the year, Canada's exports of elemental sulphur were approaching a balance with imports of this commodity. Late in 1960 final approval was obtained for the export of large quantities of natural gas from Western Canada to the United States. This has made necessary the processing of substantial quantities of sour gas and consequently the recovery of larger quantities of elemental sulphur. As a result, the capacity of plants in Western Canada may be expected to increase from 2,000 tons per day at the end of 1960 to 6,200 tons during 1962. When fully developed, these plants will have an annual productive capacity of some 2,000,000 tons of sulphur.

Six new sulphur plants were under construction in 1961 and plans for others were being studied. Two of the new plants will have the capacity to recover 1,500 tons per day. In Alberta, Petrogas Processing Limited placed on stream in 1961 near Calgary a plant capable of producing 336,000 tons of sulphur per annum. Other plants were completed by Jefferson Lake Petrochemicals of Canada Limited at Coleman, Western Lease Holds Ltd. at Wildcat Hills, and Home Oil Company Limited at Carstairs. By the end of the year, 15 recovery plants were in operation in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, converting sulphur compounds in natural gas into commercial grades of elemental sulphur.

Other Minerals.—Gypsum is mined in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The output in 1961 was in excess of 5,000,000 tons valued at over \$9,000,000. Much of the Canadian crude gypsum production is exported from the Maritimes to supply United States plants along the Atlantic seaboard. Bestwall Gypsum Company of Ardmore, Pennsylvania, is developing a deposit near River Denys Station, Cape Breton Island, to supply company plants in the United States with crude gypsum. The \$2,900,000 development will provide for a production of 5,500 tons per day. Flintkote Company of Canada Limited is proceeding with the development of gypsum deposits in the Flat Bay area of Newfoundland. An expenditure of \$2,000,000 will provide for the construction of a six-mile aerial tramway and deep-water shipping facilities at Turf Point. It is expected to be in operation during the latter half of 1962 and will supply plants at Humbermouth, Nfld., and at points in eastern United States. Gypsum reserves in the area are large and have been stated to be in the neighbourhood of 200,000,000 tons.