

CHAPTER XI.—MINES AND MINERALS

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Section 1.—Canada's Mineral Industry 1961-62*

Following the 1959-61 period of comparatively slow production growth, the Canadian mineral industry recorded a favourable gain in output to \$2,842,984,195 in 1962 from the 1961 level of \$2,582,300,387. The mineral fuels sector accounted for about one half of the year's gain in production value and the metallic minerals for one third. The structural materials component of the industrial minerals sector accounted for most of the remaining gain, the increase for the non-metallic minerals being comparatively minor. As a result of these advances, production values of metallic minerals, industrial minerals and mineral fuels were \$1,480,282,362, \$565,850,747 and \$796,851,086, respectively, compared with \$1,387,159,036, \$541,813,549 and \$653,327,802 in 1961. A considerable decline in the production value of uranium and smaller declines for several other minerals were more than offset by major gains for crude petroleum, nickel, natural gas and copper.

The extent of mineral industry growth in recent years is readily apparent from a comparison of key statistics for 1952 and 1962; in the earlier year, production value was \$1,285,342,353, less than one half the 1962 output. The index of physical volume of mineral production, on a 1949 base, rose from 131.0 to 287.0 and per capita output from \$89 to \$153. Although the rate of production growth was greatest in the earlier years of this period, exploration and property development, particularly in the metallic minerals sector, have proceeded at a rapid pace during the past two years. This activity has demonstrated further the great mineral potential of Canada.

Nickel, for the fourth consecutive year, was the leading metal in 1962 with a value of \$385,200,000, although the volume of output was down slightly. Following nickel

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