

The amount of assistance payable to an operator is computed under the current formula by adding 25 p.c. to the product of the rate of assistance and the number of assistance ounces. The number of assistance ounces is two thirds of the total number of ounces produced in the assistance period. The rate-of-assistance factor is determined by taking two thirds of the amount by which the average cost of production per ounce exceeds \$26.50. Thus, a gold mine that has an average cost of production less than \$26.50 per ounce is not eligible for payment of assistance. The amount of assistance increases as the average cost of production increases from \$26.50 to \$45. A maximum rate of assistance of \$12.33 per ounce precludes an increase in the amount of assistance as the average cost of production rises above \$45 per ounce.

For purposes of the Act, the cost of production of gold from a mine is the cost properly attributable to the gold produced from the mine during the year and includes mining, milling, smelting, refining, transportation and administration costs and amounts for depreciation, pre-production expenses and expenditures on exploration and development as determined in accordance with the Regulations.

The amounts paid to operators of gold mines to Mar. 31, 1964, for the years 1948 to 1963, inclusive, totalled \$185,895,965 on 46,418,762 oz.t. of gold produced and sold under the provisions of the Act. The assistance payable in respect of gold produced and sold under the Act in 1963 is estimated at \$14,970,000.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Government Aid*

Newfoundland.—The Newfoundland Government, through its Mines Branch, provides several valuable services to those interested in prospecting and mining. It publishes, for sale at nominal cost, geological reports, geophysical maps and compilations of general data pertaining to specific areas and makes available, from unclassified files, various other information to interested parties. It identifies specimens sent in from Newfoundland and Labrador and assays by chemical means those that appear to have some mineral content. If good specimens from a known area warrant further investigation, a geologist from the Department of Mines, Agriculture and Resources is available to visit the locality and give advice. Prospector's or miner's permits are issued by the Department and claims are registered.

Nova Scotia.—Under the provisions of the Mines Act (RSNS 1954, c. 179), the Government of Nova Scotia may assist a mining company or operator in the sinking of shafts, slopes, deeps and winzes and the driving of adits, tunnels, crosscuts, raises and levels. This assistance may take the form of work performed under contract, the payment of bills for materials and labour, or the guarantee of bank loans. Any such work must be approved by the Department of Mines. The Government is also authorized to assist the mining industry to procure power on the most economical basis and may guarantee the Nova Scotia Power Commission against any loss of revenue incurred on account of capital investments made for that purpose. Mining machinery and equipment to be used in searching for or testing and mining minerals may be made available through the Government. Such equipment is under the direct supervision of the Chief Mining Engineer.

The Government of Nova Scotia is also empowered to make any regulations considered necessary for increasing the output of coal. Such regulations cover the appropriation, on payment, of unworked coal lands, the operation of coal mines, and loans or guarantees for loans. Close co-operation is maintained with the Federal Government in carrying out federal regulations made to secure increased production and economical distribution of coal from the mines of the province.

New Brunswick.—The Mines Branch of the Department of Lands and Mines has five divisions. The *Mineral Lands Division* administers the disposition of Crown mineral rights including the issuing of prospecting licences, recording of mining claims, issuing of mining licences and leases and other matters pertaining thereto. Detailed and index claim

* Compiled from material supplied by the respective provincial governments.