



Mineral Industry Outlook

Canada is the world's leading producer of nickel, zinc and asbestos; the second largest producer of gold, uranium, molybdenum, gypsum, selenium, sulphur and titanium; the third largest producer of iron ore, aluminum metal, cobalt, platinum metals and tellurium; fourth largest of lead, silver and magnesium; fifth largest of copper and barite; and in the over-all record ranks high for a number of other mineral commodities. The industry's output value has increased at an average annual rate of 7.6 p.c. during the past ten years and the outlook is for a continuing advance at least at this rate. Fortunately, the industry has only a few mineral commodity problems: a declining gold industry due to a cost-price squeeze, an ailing coal industry due to loss of markets and some high-cost mines, and a temporarily stagnant uranium industry awaiting new market growth. There is also a labour shortage problem which will be receiving attention in the administration of the Federal Government's new manpower policy. Possibly the most favourable current development is the intensity of mineral exploration throughout the country.

Canada has many competitors in the field of international mineral trade particularly in iron ore, copper, zinc, lead and crude petroleum (see pp. 594-596). There is no world scarcity of mineral raw materials and developments throughout the world in the past few years indicate that competition for mineral and metal markets will become even more severe. Although Canada is faced with increasing competition, it is very encouraging to note that major mineral discoveries are being made in this country each year in both long-established mining areas and in more remote locations. In addition, many smaller but still very important operations are being brought into production and others are being expanded. Thus, the value of Canada's mineral production will almost certainly exceed \$4,000,000,000 in 1967.