

Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.—Prince Edward Island's mineral production is confined to structural materials, which had a value of \$2,757,000 in 1966.

Total value of mineral production in 1966 for Nova Scotia was \$85,417,000 compared with \$70,772,000 in 1965. The output of coal, which by value is the province's major mineral product, was about 7 p.c. lower than in the previous year. The output of non-metallics, valued at \$15,125,000, was about the same as in 1965, gypsum and salt contributing \$8,141,000 and \$4,725,000, respectively.

There has been a steady decline in coal production in Nova Scotia (and New Brunswick) over the past 20 years, during which time many of coal's traditional uses have been taken over by other mineral fuels, notably diesel oil, furnace oil and natural gas. The industry has operated under increasingly difficult conditions as costs continued to rise and markets continued to decline and has received financial assistance for many years under the long-standing federal coal subvention policy. In 1965, a Special Consultant on Coal was appointed by the Federal Government to study and recommend solutions to the Cape Breton coal problem. His report, tabled in the House of Commons on Oct. 11, 1966, recommended, in essence, that the subsidies supporting uneconomic coal production be shifted over the next 15 years to other forms of industrial development and economic activity in the Cape Breton area. The promotion and financing of the redevelopment of the Cape Breton economy is a joint federal-provincial project.

New Brunswick.—Total value of mineral production in New Brunswick in 1966 was \$90,221,000, of which \$69,386,000 was metallics output; zinc contributed \$43,003,000, lead \$15,497,000, copper \$6,366,000, silver \$4,349,000, cadmium \$97,000 and gold \$73,600. Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation, with mines near Bathurst and an associated lead-zinc smelter at Belledune Point about 25 miles north of Bathurst, is the province's major base metal producer. A new 2,250-ton-a-day mill started tune-up operations late in the year, bringing the company's total milling capacity to 6,750 tons a day. Brunswick Mining operates two mines and has large reserves of zinc-lead-copper ore and several other companies also have substantial reserves in the Bathurst area. The Wedge Mine of Cominco Ltd. and that of Heath Steele Mines Ltd., the province's other base metal producers, operated throughout the year. Production of mineral fuels, nearly all of it coal, was worth \$8,005,000 and that of structural materials was valued at \$10,934,000.

Quebec.—Quebec follows Ontario and Alberta in value of mineral production, having been displaced from second place in the mid-1950s as production of oil and gas in Alberta added substantially to that province's output. Quebec's mineral production value increased to \$762,945,000 in 1966 from \$715,901,000 the previous year. It is Canada's largest producer of zinc among the base metals and of asbestos among the non-metallics and is second only to Newfoundland in iron ore production. Mining of copper is widespread throughout the province and exploration for it and development of copper properties remained at a high level in 1966. Wexford Mines Ltd., with property in the Gaspé Park area, continued its exploration program to outline substantial reserves of medium-grade copper material. In northwestern Quebec, operations in all copper-producing areas—Noranda, Chibougamau, Matagami, Normetal and Val d'Or—continued at near capacity. In the Eastern Townships the two producers continued operations until strike action in September forced the closure of Solbec Copper Mine. Zinc output continued its year-to-year rise with production in 1966 totalling 293,000 tons, part of which was exported as concentrates and part of which was treated by Canadian Electrolytic Zinc Ltd. at Valleyfield. Two nickel producers reported production totalling 7,951,000 pounds of nickel in concentrates that were shipped to Sudbury in Ontario for smelting. Iron ore production came from three widely separated areas—direct shipping ore from Schefferville, iron ore concentrates from Gagnon, and iron ore pellets from Hilton Mines, Ltd., about 40 miles northwest of Ottawa.