

Quebec continues to lead all provinces in the production of non-metallics, output in 1966 being valued at \$171,097,000 compared with \$158,000,000 in 1965. The province produced 1,341,000 tons of the 1,489,000 tons of asbestos fibre shipped from Canadian mines; it was valued at \$138,570,000 and came from the Eastern Townships where first production was recorded almost 90 years ago. Late in the year the postponement of the large asbestos project under consideration in far northern Ungava was announced. Several other non-metallic minerals are produced in Quebec but none of them had a value of more than \$4,000,000 in 1966 except titanium dioxide, made by the electric smelting of ilmenite at Sorel; its output was valued at \$20,505,000. The value of structural materials produced in the province reached an all-time high of \$135,590,000, reflecting a high rate of industrial and construction activity during the year. There is no production of mineral fuels in Quebec.

**Ontario.**—Ontario's mineral production in 1966 at \$957,858,000, the highest of all provinces, was slightly lower than its 1965 output of \$992,789,000. The main cause of the decline was a reduction in the production of metals by International Nickel from its Sudbury operations caused by strike action during part of August and September.

For many years nickel has led all metallics in value of production; output in 1966 was worth \$269,462,000 compared with slightly more than \$316,332,000 in 1965. In Ontario, the non-communist world's two largest nickel companies—International Nickel and Falconbridge Nickel—operate 15 mines, three smelters and a copper refinery in the Sudbury area, and International Nickel operates a nickel refinery at Port Colborne. For the recovery of nickel, Falconbridge ships nickel-copper matte to Kristiansand, Norway, from its Sudbury smelter. The two companies are proceeding with production expansion plans for mining and processing facilities, which will continue until the early 1970s and will, by 1975, increase Canadian nickel production capacity to 800,000,000 pounds a year from approximately 550,000,000 pounds a year in 1966. Both companies are among the world leaders in the search for new sources of nickel in Canada and in many other areas of the world.

Copper output was also lower in 1966 than in 1965, being 202,976 tons compared with 216,272 tons. Thirteen companies operating 22 mines produced copper in the province during 1966. One of Canada's major base metal developments of the past decade came into production late in the year when Texas Gulf Sulphur Company began operating the first of its three 3,000-ton-a-day concentrator units at its property near Timmins. The Company has substantial reserves of good grade zinc-copper-silver ore and will be a large producer when operating at capacity about mid-1967. Production of iron ore at 8,144,000 tons worth \$91,701,000 was down slightly from 1965. Steep Rock Iron Mines with property at Atikokan, west of Port Arthur, completed its iron ore pellet plant. Two other properties being developed for pellet production—one at Bruce Lake near Red Lake and the other near Temagami—will begin production in 1967 and 1968. The three plants will have a combined capacity of about 4,500,000 tons of iron ore pellets a year. Uranium production from mines in the Elliot Lake area totalled 5,876,000 pounds of uranium oxide ( $U_3O_8$ ) valued at \$42,758,000. Production of uranium has been declining steadily since the peak year of 1959 but estimates of the quantities that will be required for the generation of electric power indicate that a much higher rate of annual production will be required in the years ahead. As a consequence of the favourable outlook for uranium, many companies have intensified efforts in the Elliot Lake area and elsewhere in Canada to explore and develop additional sources of this metal.

The province's output of non-metallics was valued at \$23,709,000 in 1966, with salt, nepheline syenite and gypsum together contributing \$20,934,000 of that amount. Structural materials were valued at \$191,561,000, about the same as the previous year, and the output of mineral fuels was worth \$10,176,000, natural gas contributing \$5,940,000 and crude petroleum the remainder.