

Manitoba.—Mineral output in the province was valued at \$179,241,000 in 1966, slightly lower than the 1965 value. Metallics production was valued at \$142,775,000, of which nickel contributed \$98,447,000, copper \$28,121,000 and zinc \$10,560,000. International Nickel operates the world's only fully integrated nickel production facility at Thompson. During 1966 the company continued to prepare two more mines for underground operation and one mine for open pit operation about 20 miles south of Thompson. Sherritt Gordon operates a mine and mill at Lynn Lake in northwestern Manitoba and a hydro-metallurgical refinery at Fort Saskatchewan in Alberta, where nickel and cobalt are recovered. When present expansion is completed in the Thompson area, it is expected that the province's nickel production capacity will be about 85,000 tons a year compared with the present 60,000 tons a year. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting continued operations at four copper-zinc mines in Manitoba and at a central concentrator and copper and zinc smelters at Flin Flon. Hudson Bay smelts copper concentrates from Sherritt Gordon's Lynn Lake mine.

Structural materials output in Manitoba was valued at \$20,873,000 and that of crude petroleum at \$12,956,000, both up moderately from 1965 totals.

Saskatchewan.—Total value of mineral output in 1966 was \$349,304,000 compared with \$328,167,000 in the previous year. Mineral fuels contributed \$224,833,000, non-metallics \$71,983,000, metallics \$41,039,000 and structural materials \$11,448,000.

The year was highlighted by the substantial advance in oil and gas production and by the spectacular increase in potash output, the latter being accompanied by continuing wide-scale development of potash deposits in southern Saskatchewan. Three companies—International Minerals and Chemicals Corporation, Kalium Chemicals Ltd., and Potash Company of America—produced potash in 1966 at near-capacity levels. There were also 10 shafts and six potash refineries under construction at six other locations and two additional shafts were planned by companies already engaged in shaft sinking. A record 1,990,000 tons of potash (K_2O) worth \$62,665,000 were produced and it is expected that production will continue upward until the early 1970s when Canada's capacity, all from Saskatchewan, will be over 7,000,000 tons a year. It is probable that Canada will be the world's leading producer of this commodity following 1970.

Most of Saskatchewan's metals production comes from the base metals operations of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting whose main mine straddles the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border at Flin Flon and from a second mine in Saskatchewan. Uranium production by Eldorado Mining and Refining from the Beaverlodge area in northern Saskatchewan totalled 1,988,000 pounds valued at \$11,577,000 in 1966, down slightly from the previous year. Exploration for uranium resources in the Beaverlodge area was accelerated because of the expected rapid growth in demand in the 1970s.

Alberta.—The fuels sector contributed \$776,285,000 to Alberta's total recorded mineral production value of \$846,679,000 in 1966. Alberta has long been Canada's premier oil-producing province, contributing about 65 p.c. of the country's total production. Natural gas output was valued at \$146,215,000 and natural gas by-products, not including elemental sulphur recovered from it, were valued at \$94,117,000. It was a particularly successful year for exploration and development of further oil and gas reserves and in finding markets for the province's growing output. The Rainbow Lake area, discovered in 1965, was being developed into what may become the country's largest single oil-producing area. It lies in northwestern Alberta and its extent by the year-end has not yet been fully evaluated. To serve growing markets, it is expected that oil and gas pipeline construction from Western Canada, particularly from Alberta, will be considerably higher in the next several years. Of particular significance to Alberta and to Canada will be the opening in late 1967 by Great Canadian Oil Sands Company of the first commercial plant for the extraction of oil from the Athabasca bituminous sands. It has been estimated that the sands constitute one of the world's largest single reserves of oil. There is little production of mineral commodities other than mineral fuels in Alberta. Of the \$39,119,000