

Laboratories, situated at Cobalt, operate a bulk sampling plant mainly to assist the producers of the area in marketing their silver-cobalt ores; they also perform fire assays and chemical analyses. The *Inspection Branch* administers the operating rules of the Mining Act which call for the regular examination of all operating mines, quarries and sand and gravel pits and certain metallurgical works with a view to ensuring proper conditions of health and safety to the men employed. District offices to serve the local areas are maintained in the major mining centres of the province. Mine rescue stations in the principal mining sections are operated under the supervision of the Branch and all hoisting ropes in use at mines are periodically tested by a Branch-operated cable-testing laboratory.

Since 1951 the Department has been engaged in a road-building program to give access to mineralized areas and open them for full development. In 1955 this became an interdepartmental project with other interested departments participating through an interdepartmental committee of Ministers which decides on priorities and locations. Actual construction is carried out by the Department of Highways. Under the federal-provincial Roads to Resources Program inaugurated in Ontario in 1959, the provincial government shared equally in the cost of constructing roads to otherwise inaccessible areas (see also the Transportation Chapter, Part III, Section 2). The agreement expired on Mar. 31, 1967.

The *Public Relations Branch* of the Department carries out a regular publicity and information program and maintains a library of films on mining subjects which are available for free loan to the public. Each year, displays pertaining to mining are prepared and presented at the Canadian National Exhibition and elsewhere in the province.

Manitoba.—The Mines Branch of the Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources offers five main services of assistance to the mining industry: maintenance, by the Mining Recorder's offices at Winnipeg and The Pas, of all records essential to the granting and retention of titles to every mineral location in Manitoba; compilation, by the geological staff of the Branch, of historical and current information pertinent to mineral occurrences of interest and expansion of this information by a continuing program of geological mapping; enforcement of mine safety regulations and, by collaboration with industry, introduction of new practices such as those concerned with mine ventilation and the training of mine rescue crews which contribute to the health and welfare of mine workers; and maintenance of a chemical and assay laboratory to assist the prospector and the professional man in the classification of rocks and minerals and the evaluation of mineral occurrences. Manitoba also aids the mining industry by assisting in the construction of access roads to mining districts.

To encourage the exploration for minerals in Manitoba, the Mineral Exploration Assistance Act was passed in April 1966. This Act provides for the payment of grants to individuals to assist in defraying the cost of exploration within designated areas. If assisted exploration results in the discovery of a deposit, the grant is repayable from the profits of the mine; a grant for exploration that proves unsuccessful is not repayable.

Saskatchewan.—Assistance to the mining industry in Saskatchewan is administered by the Department of Mineral Resources. The *Mineral Lands Branch* of the Department is responsible for administering the Precambrian Assistance Program. This Program, designed to stimulate development and utilization of the mineralized areas of northern Saskatchewan, offers to industry a 50-p.c. rebate of approved exploration expenditures on a specified area or property to a maximum of \$50,000 a year for each individual or company and a maximum of \$150,000 on any one area or property. This Branch is also responsible for making disposition of all Crown minerals and maintains records respecting areas let out by lease, permit or claim. Recording offices, located at Regina, La Ronge, Uranium City and Creighton, assist the public in determining the lands available and accept applications.

Officers of the *Engineering Branch*, under the authority of the Mines Regulation Act, make regular examinations of all mines to ensure proper conditions for the health and