

The high quality of the asbestos fibre from the property of Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited in the McDame area of northern British Columbia makes production so distant from markets economically feasible. The entrance of this mine into production in July 1953 will, for the first time, add asbestos to the list of British Columbia's mineral products. The initial daily rate of 150 tons is expected to be increased to 500 tons by July 1954.

British Columbia has long had hopes of building up an iron-ore industry and these hopes now appear to be materializing. Argonaut Company Limited, the sole producer in January 1952, did considerable development work on its Quinsam Lake deposits and increased its production from 101,371 tons of magnetite concentrates in 1951 to 551,812 tons in 1952. This, coupled with the addition of a second producer, Texada Mines Limited, which brought two new orebodies on Texada Island into production, increased the Province's total output of magnetite concentrates to 760,828 tons in 1952. Meanwhile, extensive exploration was carried out on other known deposits including the Elk Lake magnetite property of Quatsino Copper Gold Mines Limited, where four orebodies were discovered.

Although copper production declined in volume in 1952, higher prices resulted in an increase in the value of output to \$12,476,000 compared with \$12,111,000 in 1951. Output, in the form of concentrate, comes mainly from the Copper Mountain copper-gold-silver mine of the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company Limited, 12 miles from Princeton, and from the copper-zinc-gold-silver property of Britannia Mining and Smelting Company Limited at Britannia Beach. Concentrates are shipped to Tacoma, Washington, for refining. At Granby's Copper Mountain mine a substantial tonnage of ore was developed which can be mined economically by open-pit methods. The zinc content of the ore produced by Britannia Mining and Smelting exceeds that of the copper. Exploration was carried out on a number of copper showings throughout the Province. A recently discovered property in the area at the head of Portland Canal disclosed copper mineralization over a large area.

Other metal developments include the active exploration of the old Pacific Nickel Mines property near Choate and of a property 90 miles north of Kamloops on which uranium has been discovered.

The opening up of the Kitimat-Kemano district to industry and settlement by Aluminum Company of Canada's \$550,000,000 project is focussing increasing attention on the mineral potential of the whole region. Initial production from the project is expected to commence in 1954 and will amount to 83,000 metric tons of aluminum annually from an installation of 450,000 h.p. generating capacity. The whole project involves the development of over 2,200,000 h.p. of hydro-electric energy for an eventual annual output of 500,000 metric tons of aluminum.

Production of coal decreased slightly in 1952 to 1,644,000 tons. Bituminous coking coals, ranging from high to low volatile, are mined on Vancouver Island and in the Crownsnest, Telkwa and Nicola areas. Minor quantities of subbituminous coal are produced, mainly in the Princeton field. In the Kootenay (Crownsnest) area, medium-temperature oven by-product coke is manufactured, chiefly for industrial consumption. Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company Limited completed the installation of 16 additional by-product coke ovens in 1952 bringing its total to 52 coke ovens with a combined capacity of 500 tons daily. The coke is shipped to Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company at Trail and to the United States.