

The Crown-owned Eldorado Mining and Refining Company's uranium property, Ace-Fay, in the Beaverlodge area north of Lake Athabasca, was put into operation in April 1953, bringing Saskatchewan to the forefront as a source of uranium ore. The mill has an initial capacity of 500 tons a day but is designed to permit an expansion to 2,000 tons daily. Several private companies are also active in the Beaverlodge area and underground exploration is being carried out at different properties. A rush into the area during the review period resulted in the staking of more than 1,000 claims, bringing the total number to over 3,000. Pitchblende discoveries were made on several properties, chiefly in the Milliken Lake part of the region; the discovery made by Gunnar Gold Mines Limited in St. Mary's Channel is probably the most interesting.

The Beaverlodge district is opening up rapidly to settlement and three new communities are being built. Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited has nearly completed a large camp at Beaverlodge Lake including modern homes for its staff, a school and a hospital. A smaller settlement at Black Lake has been named Bushell. About midway between Beaverlodge and Bushell, the Saskatchewan Government has laid out a large townsite called Uranium City.

Several discoveries of uranium were also made in the Black Lake, Charlebois Lake and Lac La Ronge regions and, late in 1952, Eldorado staked a large block of claims in the Foster Lake area.

Until the entry of Eldorado's Ace-Fay mine into production, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited was Saskatchewan's only metal producer and in 1952 accounted for over 77 p.c. of the value of the Province's mineral output. More than half the production from the Company's Flin Flon copper-zinc-gold deposits comes from the Saskatchewan side of the boundary. The Company also produces cadmium, selenium and tellurium. During the review period, the Company brought its slag-fuming plant into production and dropped its milling rate from 5,000 to 4,000 tons of ore daily in line with plans to decrease its milling rate without reducing the value of the metal output through the re-treatment of zinc plant residues in the new plant. Through its subsidiary, Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company Limited, the Company carried out extensive exploration in the Canadian Shield area of Saskatchewan, particularly in the Birch Lake area where it is engaged in shaft-sinking operations on a promising gold-copper property and at Annabella Lake where it has been exploring claims.

Aside from the production from the Flin Flon deposits and more recently from the Ace-Fay mine, the Saskatchewan portion of the Canadian Shield, which underlies the whole northern third of the Province, has yielded relatively little mineral wealth to date. However, whole areas of this region are being explored and much staking has been in progress in the Lake Athabasca area.

Saskatchewan accounted for over 11 p.c. of Canada's volume of coal output in 1952, all the coal mined in the Province being lignite. Almost all of the 1952 output was strip-mined and came chiefly from the Bienfait district in southeastern Saskatchewan, the other main producing fields being Estevan and Roche Percee in the same area. Production in 1952 at 2,083,000 tons was 6 p.c. lower than in 1951. Approximately 65 p.c. of the output is shipped to Manitoba for domestic and industrial use.

The Province's output of non-metallics in 1952 comprised sand and gravel, sodium sulphate, salt and clay products, in that order. With the exception of salt, each showed declines in volume and value from 1951. The demand for sodium