

Eastern Metals Corporation Limited is carrying out underground development on a nickel-zinc-copper deposit with interesting results. Tentative plans have been made to deepen the shaft to 1,000 feet.

Barvue Mines Limited, near Barraute in western Quebec, commenced tuning in its new 6,000-ton concentrator in November 1952 at about 50 p.c. capacity; gradually increasing this until, by the end of the review period, its average daily milling rate was 4,270 tons. The Barvue deposit, estimated to contain 18,000,000 tons averaging 3.3 p.c. zinc, is being mined by open-pit methods. Operations at the mine are not affected by the decline in the price for zinc as the Company still has about two years to go on a contract for the supply of 175,000 tons of concentrates at 17½ cents (U.S.) a pound.

Despite higher operating costs and lower profits, Quebec's gold output increased by 42,000 oz. t. to 1,109,677 oz. t. in 1952. However, the value of output at \$38,029,000 in 1952 was more than 3 p.c. lower than in 1951. The increase in volume of output was due chiefly to the attainment by Lamaque Gold Mines Limited in the Val d'Or area of its objective of 2,000 tons a day early in 1952, and to the entry into production of the new 500-ton mill of Bevcourt Gold Mines Limited in Louvencourt township in mid-year. East Malartic Mines Limited, Fournière township, found good ore on the deeper levels and Barnat Mines Limited, in the same area, increased production from its north zone. Quebec's base-metal mines accounted for 25 p.c. of the total Canadian gold output in 1952. Two of the smaller mines, Quesabe Mines Limited, Duprat township, and Heva Gold Mines Limited, Rouyn district, were closed because of failure to find new ore.

Quebec Iron and Titanium Corporation made considerable headway in the mining and experimental treatment of ilmenite ore from its deposits in the Allard Lake area. Primary crushing commenced at the mine, following completion of an electric power line from Havre St. Pierre to the mine, instead of at Havre St. Pierre itself. At Sorel, the Corporation installed a conveyor belt and dock facilities for the loading and shipment of titanium dioxide slag by water, a new pig-casting machine for the production of iron in a size suitable for the primary iron and steel industry and it placed furnaces No. 2, No. 3 and No. 5 into operation. When all five furnaces are in operation, the plant capacity will be 1,500 tons of ore daily for an annual output of 250,000 tons of titanium dioxide slag and 175,000 tons of high-grade iron. The Corporation did no further work during the review period on the delineation of its orebodies in the Allard Lake area and ore reserves remain at from 125,000,000 to 150,000,000 tons of ilmenite.

The Chibougamau area, 210 miles northeast of Noranda, continued to receive major attention, having been made accessible by means of a 165-mile all-weather road from the Lake St. John district to the village of Chibougamau. Exploratory and development activity was at record levels. Four properties, Opemiska Copper Mines (Quebec) Limited, Campbell Chibougamau Mines Limited, Merrill Island Mining Corporation Limited, and Chibougamau Explorers Limited, were on the threshold of production and several other companies were exploring and developing properties throughout the district, many with promising results.

Chibougamau Explorers completed a 600-foot shaft to open three levels. Campbell Chibougamau Mines Limited was sinking a four-compartment shaft to a depth of 1,000 feet on the Merrill group in Obalski and McKenzie townships,