

the most economical basis, and may guarantee the Nova Scotia Power Commission against any loss incurred on account of capital investments made for that purpose or revenue. Mining machinery and equipment that may be used in searching for, testing and mining minerals may be made available through the Government. Such equipment is under the direct supervision of the Chief Mining Engineer.

The Government of Nova Scotia is also empowered to make any regulations considered necessary for increasing the output of coal. Such regulations cover the appropriation, on payment, of unworked coal lands, operation of coal mines, loans or guarantees for loans. Close co-operation is maintained with the Federal Government in carrying out federal regulations made to secure increased production and economical distribution of coal from the mines of the Province.

New Brunswick.—The Mines Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Lands and Mines examines mineral and rock specimens for prospectors and makes preliminary examinations of mineral prospects where requested. In addition, the Mines Branch distributes maps.

Quebec.—The Mining Act (R.S.Q. 1941, c. 196) authorizes the Quebec Department of Mines to build, maintain and improve roads needed for mining development. Such work is done by contract under the supervision of departmental engineers. The Act gives the Department considerable latitude in this respect. In certain cases, major roads have been built to new mining districts and completely paid for; on the other hand, if a particular property requires a branch road from an established highway, the owner may be required to contribute a portion of the cost. To prevent the development of uncontrolled settlements in the vicinity of operating mines, the Department regulates the use of land and permits the establishment of well-organized communities. The municipal organization of such communities is jointly administered by the Department of Mines and the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The Department maintains well-equipped laboratories for the benefit of prospectors, geologists, engineers and mine operators. The facilities include equipment for mineralogy, petrography, ore-dressing, and analysis by wet or dry assays, spectrography or X-ray. Quantitative and mineralogical determinations are made free, but quantitative analyses are made for a fee according to a tariff schedule. The Mining Act provides coupons to be used by prospectors in paying for such analyses.

At Val d'Or in western Quebec, the Department maintains a sampling and treatment plant where tests may be made on bulk samples and where precious metals may be recovered for prospectors at cost price. The treatment plant, which is fully equipped to carry out a wide variety of pilot-scale ore-dressing tests, is at the disposal of mine owners wanting to establish mill-flow sheets. At Thetford Mines, in the heart of the asbestos district, the Department maintains a laboratory where classification of asbestos is made according to standard designations or grades. The Province has authorized the establishment of research laboratories to assist mining and metallurgical enterprises in the processes and techniques of extracting, transforming and utilizing ores.

The Department undertakes geological mapping and inspection. The work is divided between two branches, one responsible for reconnaissance aerial mapping, the other doing detailed mapping in mining districts and inspection of individual deposits or properties. Field parties are headed by geologists or mining engineers.