

in Alberta in February 1947. The developments that followed resulted in an increase in the value of crude-oil production from \$14,989,052 in 1946 to a record \$198,111,542 in 1953. Actually, with the major exceptions of gold and coal, all branches of the mineral industry have shared in the post-war expansion.

However, there has been some slowing in the tempo of activity. The prices of lead and zinc have declined 5.23 cents and 7.94 cents a pound, respectively, from the post-war peak averages of 1951 and this has led to a curtailment of operations at several properties. Production of iron ore, asbestos, and coal was declining in the closing months of the review period, July 1953-June 1954. Also, many of the projects connected with the pre-production development of mineral deposits, such as the construction of the 360-mile railway to connect the Quebec-Labrador iron-ore deposits with the port of Sept Iles, are now completed or are nearing completion and the stimulus they provided in mining expansion has largely spent its force.

Thus, the outlook for the mineral industry was less bright at the end of the review period than it had been the previous year or two, though it was far from unfavourable. Some monthly production figures have been rising, others declining, but the over-all productive potential of the industry has been increasing steadily. Crude oil pipelines and related facilities completed or under construction will be capable of handling 600,000 bbl. daily, close to three times the present rate of output. Moreover, the known reserves are considered to be sufficient to maintain this higher rate for many years. Within a decade Canada will be capable of producing 30,000,000 or more tons of iron ore a year compared with the output of 6,501,060 tons in 1953. The base-metal industry has undergone notable improvement as a result of recent discoveries and of expenditures totalling upwards of \$300,000,000 during the past several years in plant extension and in the construction of new units. Completion of a project at Winnipeg and another near Quebec City will give the cement industry a total capacity of 25,700,000 bbl. a year, compared with 22,500,000 bbl. early in 1953. There has been a corresponding increase in the productive capacity of the asbestos industry as a result of mill construction and the development of new deposits. In the search for oil on the western plains tremendous quantities of natural gas are being disclosed, part of which will be flowing eastwards to Ontario and Quebec within a few years should present plans materialize.

The fact is that in the past ten to fifteen years Canada has been finding it has a mineral estate richer by far in resources than had been previously estimated. The development of this estate is still in a comparatively early stage, for as yet large areas remain wholly unexplored, or have been only partly explored for minerals. The development is being expedited by the use of air transportation in the outlying areas and by the demonstrated willingness of mining and exploration companies to take the necessary risks in expending large amounts on the search for and development of deposits.

The potentialities of this expanding mineral estate are indeed great and, although the aforementioned goal of two billion dollars is possibly more than six years away, it is by no means visionary. The indications are that iron-ore output alone will have reached a value of \$400,000,000 a year within a decade and that crude petroleum may equal or even exceed that amount. Actually, a combined value of a billion dollars a year for the two minerals does not appear far distant. Metal production, exclusive of iron ore, has already reached nearly \$700,000,000 in