

annual value and a substantial increase in demand and the resultant higher prices could well raise this amount by 10 to 20 p.c., taking into account the increasing productive potential of the metal-mining industry. The non-metallic minerals exclusive of crude oil and natural gas but including coal, were valued at \$413,785,000 in 1953 and, again, the industries concerned are capable of considerably larger output than at present. Figures on the value of output of uranium are not published but it is evident from recent developments and from the interest being shown in the search for deposits that Canada's position as a leading source of supply is assured for years to come. This is particularly important in view of the developing uses of atomic energy in industry.

The following articles on the metals, the industrial minerals, crude petroleum and natural gas, and coal that follow, shed much further light on the potentialities of the mineral industry and provide informative accounts of the principal developments during the review period. They do not, however, deal with developments in Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories as these are covered separately at pp. 24-25.

THE METALS

Probably the most noteworthy developments in metal mining during the review period were the completion of the 360-mile railway into northern Quebec-Labrador which opens the way to the establishment of a great new iron-ore industry in Canada, and the discovery of important base-metal deposits in the Manitowadge area north of Lake Superior in northwestern Ontario. Of great significance, too, were the strides made by Gaspé Copper Mines Limited in building up a new copper-mining operation in Gaspé, which is expected to get under way late in 1954, and the marked growth in iron-ore mining operations in the Steep Rock area of northwestern Ontario.

Production of metals in 1953 declined \$19,000,000 from the 1952 value to \$708,913,000, because of lower lead and zinc prices and of prolonged labour strikes in the Porcupine gold camp of Ontario and in the Noranda area of Quebec. However, the results of an enhanced production potential were seen, in part, in the increase of 23 p.c. in the volume of output of iron ore during 1953, of 20 p.c. in silver output, 17 p.c. in lead, 7 p.c. in zinc and 2.4 p.c. in nickel. Several new sources of metal production were opened up. Manitoba joined the list of nickel producers with the entry into production of the Lynn Lake nickel-copper deposits. In northern Saskatchewan the commencement of production at the Crown-owned Ace-Fay property in the Beaverlodge area served to underline Canada's importance as a producer of uranium. In Quebec, the first production of copper and gold came from the Chibougamau area with the start of operations by the Opemiska Copper Mines (Quebec) Limited. Meanwhile, in northeastern New Brunswick developments in the Bathurst area point to the eventual establishment of a large-scale base-metals industry.

Accounts of developments in metal mining on a regional basis follow.

British Columbia.—British Columbia with its great wealth of minerals is Canada's second largest metal-producing province. Although declines in the prices of lead, zinc and gold have caused a temporary slackening in metal-mining activity, interest in the Province's mineral potentialities has remained at a high level as evinced by the widespread exploration being carried on, particularly in northern areas, and by various developments under way, such as the steady building up of substantial tungsten and iron-ore industries.