

to the threshold of production both from the Quebec-Labrador iron ore deposits of Iron Ore Company of Canada and from the copper development of Gaspé Copper Mines Limited in Gaspé. The Province's potentialities as a producer of iron ore were further pointed up by the discovery of other important deposits west of Ungava Bay. Of much significance, too, was the long-awaited commencement of production from the Chibougamau area.

Quebec is next to Ontario in annual value of Canadian mineral production. It is the second largest producer of copper, gold and zinc and the only producer of molybdenite, which is mined in Abitibi East County, and of titanium ore, which comes from the large deposits of ilmenite at Allard Lake in eastern Quebec. The Province also produces silver and lead. Mineral production in 1953 declined \$18,000,000 in value from 1952 to \$252,826,000 mainly because of the loss in output of copper, zinc and gold caused by labour strikes at Noranda Mines Limited, Quemont Mining Corporation Limited, Normetal Mining Corporation Limited, and Waite Amulet Mines Limited.

Top-ranking development in metal mining in Quebec is the establishment of a great new iron-ore industry in Quebec-Labrador where Iron Ore Company of Canada has already outlined over 400,000,000 tons of iron ore, and where exploration during 1953 brought to light several new deposits of concentrating ore. During the review period the Company proceeded to put the finishing touches on the various phases of the great \$250,000,000 project preparatory to initial production in August 1954. The 360-mile railway connecting Sept Iles with Schefferville (Knob Lake) was completed with the exception of the ballasting which will be finished by August 1954. At the northern terminus of the railway the new town of Schefferville is being built up rapidly. Dock construction and the installation of ore-handling machinery at Sept Iles were almost completed. Hydro-electric power for Schefferville and the mine will come from the Menihék dam and power-house, while power for the town of Sept Iles and the ore-handling equipment will come from the Ste-Marguerite power site. Mining will start from the Ruth No. 3 orebody which is close to the railway and which has been stripped for open-pit operations.

Much exploration of the Labrador Trough has been carried on during the past few years. Geological observations from aircraft indicate that the north end of the iron-bearing Trough may be at Diana Bay on Hudson Strait instead of 300 miles to the south as indicated on the most recent geological map of Canada. Several companies have secured concessions or claims in the Trough, some of which were actively explored during the review period. One of these companies, Fenimore Iron Mines Limited, which has recently undergone reorganization, is doing exploratory work on its properties near Ungava Bay. Drilling has outlined extensive deposits of low-grade iron ore which will require up-grading before marketing.

Most of Quebec's base-metal production comes from the western part of the Province, the chief source of output being the copper-gold-silver-pyrite Horne mine of Noranda Mines Limited. The output of copper in 1953 declined 29,881,000 lb. from 1952 to 107,811,000 lb., and of lead, 2,682,000 lb. to 18,358,000 lb. Zinc output increased 11,334,000 lb. to 201,131,000 lb. but decreased by \$9,083,000 in value to \$24,055,000.

Operations were suspended at the Noranda mine and smelter on Aug. 22, 1953, by a labour strike which lasted until Feb. 13, 1954. The Company treats ore from its Horne mine and custom ores and concentrates from other copper, gold and silver