

Newfoundland.*—The strides made in iron-ore mining in the Province and the resultant marked increase in production attracted major attention during the review period. Output, which comes from Dominion Wabana Ore Limited, wholly owned subsidiary of Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Limited, and the sole producer, reached a record high of 2,393,000 long tons in 1953, an increase of 916,000 long tons from 1952. The remainder of the Province's metal production, which comprises zinc, lead, copper, silver and gold, comes from the operations of Buchans Mining Company Limited near Red Indian Lake in central Newfoundland. With the exception of silver, the Company's production was considerably below 1952 levels. However, because of the marked increase in the value of iron-ore production, the total value of mineral output in the Province amounted to \$33,688,000 in 1953 compared with \$32,512,000 in 1952.

At Wabana, the record production achieved by Dominion Wabana Ore was the direct outcome of the extensive modernization and expansion program set under way in 1950 and completed late in 1953. Essentially all operations are submarine, extending in some parts about four miles out under the Atlantic Ocean. The program included the replacement of the cable-hauled tramcars with 22-ton diesel trucks, the interconnection of the Company's three mines, and the installation of the world's longest underground conveyor-belt system. In November 1953, a fourth mine, the Forsyth, was started with the sinking of a new 3,500-ft. slope. Approximately one-half of the output in 1953 was shipped to the United Kingdom, about 31 p.c. to the parent company at Sydney, N.S., and the remainder to Germany. Ore reserves at the Wabana mines have been estimated to be as high as 4,000,000,000 tons.

Buchans Mining Company Limited operated its 1,350-ton mill at an average rate of 950 tons a day. Production continued to come from the Lucky Strike, Oriental and Old Buchans deposits but the newer Rothermere Number One mine was the main source of ore supply. In 1953 the Company shipped concentrates containing 54,945,000 lb. of zinc, 5,525,000 lb. of copper and 35,723,000 lb. of lead compared with 61,034,000 lb. of zinc, 5,918,000 lb. of copper and 36,118,000 lb. of lead in 1952. The zinc, copper and lead concentrates also contained 654,000 oz. t. of silver in 1953 compared with 639,000 oz. t. in 1952 and 7,575 oz. t. of gold compared with 8,595 oz. t. in 1952. The Company is doing underground development work on the new orebodies located by drilling during the past few years.

Widespread exploration was carried on throughout the Island and in Labrador by various companies during the review period. Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited continued to explore the Notre Dame Bay area where, in 1951, it located a copper property. Field parties of the Geological Survey of Canada discovered an interesting occurrence of scheelite, one of the principal ores of tungsten, in the area during the 1953 field season. Also, the Geological Survey carried out a magnetometer survey over the large area of Newfoundland between the 48th and 49th parallels, where the largest unexplored parts of the Province lie. Exploration in Labrador has revealed interesting occurrences of copper and iron.

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

Canada's resources of industrial minerals constitute a great source of actual and potential wealth. Entering as they do into practically every phase of industrial activity, industrial minerals are indispensable in the national economy; without abundant supplies, well distributed across the nation, the great strides in industrial development made in the past two decades could not have come about.

* Developments in the Quebec-Labrador iron-ore field on described on p. 482.