

The new mines entering production or nearing the production stage during the review period are referred to in detail below but it may be noted here that when fully developed these properties will have an estimated combined annual output of almost half a billion dollars. Production from the Quebec-Labrador deposits alone may eventually reach an annual value of \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 and indications are that uranium production will reach a gross annual value of \$100,000,000 within a few years. In addition exploratory work at several mining properties still far from production is disclosing large tonnages of ore and present high metal prices as well as the successful development of new low-cost ore-processing techniques are bringing numerous marginal deposits within economic range.

In contrast to the previous twelve month period when falling base metal prices and other factors made the prospects for the industry somewhat uncertain the outlook was seldom brighter than at the end of June 1955. Most of the industries in Canada and abroad that use metals and minerals in large quantities were operating at or near capacity with prospects of still greater activity. International tension had been eased considerably and earlier views that such a development might adversely affect the industrial outlook were being revised in the light of increasing evidence to the contrary.

One of the brightest features of the outlook however is the success that has been attending the search for new sources of mineral wealth in recent years, the discoveries in the Blind River and Manitowadge areas of Ontario, in the New Quebec-Labrador region and in the Bathurst area of New Brunswick being excellent illustrations. It is significant that much of this wealth was found in areas that had already been prospected extensively. Coupled with the fact that most of the Canadian north has received only limited prospecting attention, this seems to assure a continuation of mineral discoveries for years to come.

### Subsection 1.—The Metals

Several events of great significance to the metal mining industry highlighted the 1954-55 period, each of which will make a marked contribution to Canada's production of metals. In Quebec initial shipments of rich hematite iron ore from New Quebec-Labrador rolled into Seven Islands on the newly completed 360 mile Quebec and North Shore Railway from Iron Ore Company of Canada deposits at Schefferville (Knob Lake). In the western part of the Province the Chibougamau area's second copper-gold producer, Campbell Chibougamau Mines Limited, came into production in June 1955 at close to its rated capacity of 1,750 tons and, in the southern part of the Province, Gaspé Copper Mines Limited attained its first output of copper though at a rate far below initial capacity expectations because of lack of sufficient power. In British Columbia the first aluminum ingot was poured in August 1954 at the new Kitimat project of Aluminum Company of Canada Limited, the eventual completion of which will mean the doubling of Canada's annual output of aluminum (from imported ore) to 1,000,000 metric tons. In northern Manitoba Canada's second nickel producer, the Lynn Lake property of Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited, more than measured up to output expectations during its first full year of operation.

New disclosures of Canada's great mineral wealth were made in various parts of the country leading to the setting under way of additional large development projects. Uranium held the spotlight throughout the review period as a result of developments in the Beaverlodge area and the revelation that huge tonnages of low grade uranium ore exist in the Blind River area of northern Ontario. Large new sources of base metal wealth were discovered near the Bathurst find in New Brunswick and in the Northwest Territories exploratory and development activity disclosed extensive tonnages of good-grade lead-zinc ore over a mineralized belt 36 miles in length at Pine Point on the south shore of Great Slave Lake.