

Kemano project and at the end of the review period was engaged in a \$45,000,000 expansion program to add 60,000 metric tons of aluminum ingots a year to the initial capacity of 91,500 metric tons. Ultimate hydro power capacity of the project is 2,240,000 h.p. which will support an output of 500,000 metric tons of aluminum a year. A still greater project, and one that will prove a great boon to the Province's mineral industry in general, is being planned by Frobisher Limited and Ventures Limited. It involves the utilization of water power resources in northern British Columbia and Yukon Territory for the development of 4,500,000 h.p. for the large scale treatment of ores from Canadian and world sources.

Under the impetus of improved base metal prices, the tempo of metal mining activity quickened in the Province during the review period, lifting the industry from the doldrums into which it had been forced by low metal prices in 1953 and early 1954. Probably the event of greatest significance to the industry was the decision of the United States Government to stockpile more lead and zinc rather than create tariffs on these metals. The total value of metal production in 1954 was \$799,916,306, an increase of 12.8 p.c. over 1953.

In 1954 British Columbia accounted for 79 p.c. of Canada's production of lead and 40 p.c. of its zinc. Lead production increased from 148,817 tons valued at \$38,472,000 in 1953 to 171,768 tons valued at \$45,793,000 but zinc declined from 191,150 tons valued at \$45,723,000 to 151,538 tons valued at \$36,309,000. Although Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company maintained a 20 p.c. reduction in its output of refined zinc throughout the review period, it raised mill capacity at its Tulsequah mine in northwestern British Columbia from 300 to 500 tons a day and brought its H.B. zinc-lead mine in the Salmo area into production in June 1955. By that date the Company had put the finishing touches to its extensive modernization and expansion program which included an addition to the electrolytic zinc plant and the modernization of the lead smelter, both at Trail. (This Company also produces silver, tin, antimonial lead, bismuth, cadmium, indium, gold, ammonia, sulphuric acid, fertilizers, and other chemical products.) At other properties, Canadian Exploration Limited, a subsidiary of Placer Development Limited, continued to operate its Jersey lead-zinc mine near Salmo at about 1,000 tons a day, 55 p.c. of the mill capacity. Giant Mascot Mines Limited near Spillimacheen enlarged its zinc producing capacity and resumed the production of zinc concentrate which had been discontinued early in 1953. Sheep Creek Gold Mines Limited brought its zinc-lead-silver Mineral King mine in the Lake Windermere district into production in mid-1954.

Little change was noted in the output of copper which in 1954 amounted to 25,088 tons valued at \$14,544,000. Production continued to come from The Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company Limited near Princeton and from Britannia Mining and Smelting Company Limited on Howe Sound. Several copper properties were under development, particularly along the coast, one of these being Granduc Mines Limited 25 miles northwest of Stewart. Reserves of over 15,000,000 tons were indicated at the property a few miles east of the Alaska boundary and various plans for providing access to the copper at a low cost are under study.

The output of tungsten declined in 1953 from 2,396,000 lb., valued at \$5,556,000 to 2,171,000 lb. in 1954, valued at \$5,796,000, because of the closing of the Red Rose mine of Western Tungsten Copper Mines Limited south of Hazelton. Canadian Exploration, the major producer, continued to modernize and expand productive facilities at its property near Salmo.

Japan's dollar shortage and that country's resultant curtailment of imports of Canadian iron ore led to a reduction in the output from the Iron Hill mine of the Argonaut Mining Company Limited and from the properties of Texada Mines Limited on Texada Island. The latter Company maintained its shipments at approximately the same level as in 1953 (332,000 tons) because of a long term overseas contract but Argonaut was forced to suspend operations in 1954 and its output that year was only 164,000 tons compared with 554,000 tons in 1953. New contracts led to a resumption of production and shipments in April 1955.