

Quebec's gold production increased from 1,022,000 oz. t. valued at \$35,167,000 in 1953 to 1,099,000 oz. t. valued at \$37,428,000 in 1954. Output came from 16 lode gold mines which contributed about 72 p.c. to the production and from 11 base metal companies including Noranda and five companies that ship ore to it. No new lode gold properties came into production during the review period nor did any cease operations. Eldrich Mines Limited is sinking a 1,075 foot shaft on its property in the Noranda area.

Molybdenite production comes from Molybdenite Corporation of Canada, Limited, about 25 miles north of Val d'Or. The Company is expanding its milling rate from 400 tons daily to 500 tons daily. Shipments in 1954 increased to 376 tons compared with 162 tons in 1953. Most of the production was sold to the United States Government and the remainder went to Europe.

Quebec became Canada's first producer of lithium with the entry into production late in 1955 of Quebec Lithium Corporation's large deposit of spodumene in LaCorne township about 25 miles north of Val d'Or. A 700 foot shaft is being sunk and a mill built with a minimum capacity of 1,000 tons. A five year contract with Lithium Corporation of America Inc., covers the production of 165 tons of lithium concentrates daily.

Quebec Iron and Titanium Corporation continued to operate at Sorel its experimental smelting plant for the treatment of ilmenite ore from the deposits at Allard Lake. Production is in the form of iron and titanium dioxide concentrate. Shipments from Sorel during 1954 amounted to 118,000 tons of titanium dioxide slag containing approximately 82,000 tons of titanium dioxide, a decline from 1953 shipments. Two of the five furnaces of the treatment plant were shut down to permit investigative work directed toward obtaining greater operating efficiency and lower production costs.

The Maritime Provinces.—Metal mining activity in the Maritimes was centred mainly on the development of the properties of Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited in the Bathurst area of New Brunswick and on widespread exploration in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for new sources of base metals. New Brunswick, which, aside from a small output of iron ore, has had no metal mining industry of any kind, recorded its first production of base metal concentrates—lead and zinc—from the Keymet Mines Limited property 15 miles north of Bathurst.

The Province looks forward to a greatly improved economy as Brunswick Mining and Smelting pressed forward the development of the zinc-lead-pyrite Austin Brook deposit 17 miles southwest of Bathurst and the Anacon deposit of a similar type of ore five miles to the north. Combined they are estimated to contain approximately 50,000,000 tons of ore to the 1,000 foot level. Stripping of the Austin Brook deposit, from which an estimated 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 tons of ore can be recovered by open pit methods, was to be finished by the end of 1955. Underground exploration of the Anacon deposit, which will be mined entirely by underground operations, is being carried out from two levels. Production is planned on a minimum basis of 4,000 tons a day, but details hinge on the solution of the metallurgical problems involved in the treatment of the complex ore. Extensive research work is being done in a 150 ton pilot mill. Six miles to the northeast of the Brunswick Austin Brook property, New Larder "U" Island Mines Limited is sinking a 1,500 foot shaft to explore its orebody further.

Probably the most colourful development during the review period was the discovery by the American Metal Company Limited of several extensive zinc-lead-copper-pyrite orebodies on its Little River property 30 miles northwest of Newcastle. The ore is believed to be similar to the Brunswick orebodies. Drilling disclosed reserves of over 7,000,000 tons in several orebodies. Shaft sinking was started as well as investigative work on the metallurgical problems involved in the treatment of the ore.

Considerable exploratory and development work was done on two manganese properties. Strategic Materials Corporation did research near Woodstock on the production of a marketable manganese product from its low grade deposit containing large tonnages