

a former producer, into production first. Initial output of 1,000 tons by 1957 will be increased later to 2,000 tons. Exploratory drilling has outlined over 2,000,000 tons of ore averaging 2.2 p.c. copper. Several other old copper properties in the area were acquired by associated companies.

Widespread exploration was also carried on elsewhere on the Island of Newfoundland and in Labrador. Several new copper-zinc orebodies were discovered south of old workings at the York Harbour mine which was a small producer early in the century.

Subsection 2.—Industrial Minerals*

Noteworthy developments took place in the industrial mineral industries during 1955. Many of them set new production records, new deposits were opened up and new products appeared on the market. Construction activity continued at a very high level and all of the industries producing the materials of construction operated at or near capacity. Altogether about fifty industrial minerals are being produced in Canada. The highlights of that production given here will indicate the rapid advances occurring throughout the whole industrial mineral field.

Gypsum.—Production of gypsum reached a new high during the year when 4,798,200 tons valued at \$8,455,000 were shipped from Canadian quarries. This country ranks second in the world as a producer of gypsum. It is principally used by the construction industry as wallboard, wall plaster, sheathing board, lath and tile. One of the largest deposits on the North American continent came into production during 1955 when National Gypsum (Canada) Limited began shipping from its mine near Milford, N.S. This \$6,000,000 development was five years in the making from the date of the first diamond drilling. The quarry and crushing plant have a present capacity of 5,000 tons per shift. The crushed gypsum is taken 32 miles by rail to Bedford Basin and from that port is carried by ship to the Company's plants along the Atlantic Coast of the United States where it is converted into various gypsum products.

Ownership of several operating gypsum properties changed hands during the year. Victoria Gypsum Company, Limited at Little Narrows, N.S., was purchased by United States Gypsum Company, Chicago. Bellrock Gypsum Industries Limited, a Scottish company, took an option on the plant and quarry of Atlantic Gypsum Limited, of Corner Brook, Nfld., and Columbia Gypsum Company Limited of Vancouver purchased the Windermere, B.C., quarry of Columbia Gypsum Products, Incorporated, whose head office is in Spokane, Washington.

Portland Cement.—The Portland cement industry set an alltime production record in 1955 when, according to preliminary statistics, over 25,860,000 bbl. valued at more than \$64,363,000 were produced. This production however could not meet the insistent demands of the construction industry and close to 3,000,000 bbl. were imported from British, European and United States sources in an effort to overcome shortages in various parts of the country.

The program of rapid expansion in production facilities, begun early in the postwar period, continued at an accelerated pace in 1955. Canada Cement Company, Limited, which operates seven plants in five provinces and produces over 75 p.c. of the Canadian output, is building a new plant at Beachville, Ont., near Woodstock, which will have a yearly capacity of 1,500,000 bbl. and will be in operation in 1956. A new kiln, the seventh, is being added to the Company's Montreal East plant, and a new plant with an annual capacity of 1,200,000 bbl. has been completed at Fort Whyte, Man., alongside the existing plant there. Canada Cement has also nearly completed a 1,000,000 bbl. a year clinker grinding plant at Edmonton, Alta., which will grind clinker made at the Exshaw plant. This plant is so designed that it can be converted into a producing plant by the addition of a kiln. When all of these new units are in operation, Canada Cement will have a yearly productive capacity of 27,000,000 bbl. as compared with 10,000,000 bbl. in 1945.

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