

CANADA'S IRON ORE INDUSTRY, 1956.

Production (shipments) of iron ore from Canadian operations in 1956 amounted to 20,711,778 tons, valued at \$156,327,885 compared with 14,536,000 tons, valued at \$110,000,000 in 1955. This represents an increase of 26 percent in tonnage and 24 percent in value to set new highs in 1956 over those recorded the previous year. The major portion of this gain is attributable to increased output by Iron Ore Company of Canada from its mines in Labrador-New Quebec near Schefferville. Increased shipments were also reported by Dominion Wabana and Steep Rock Iron Mines in 1956. Production of iron sinter by Noranda at Port Robinson, Ontario, and iron ore pellets by International Nickel at Copper Cliff, Ontario is not included in the total shipments for 1955-56 reported above. Neither is the production of desulphurized pig iron from the Sorel smelter of Quebec Iron and Titanium Corporation included in the total.

The modern Canadian iron ore industry had its beginnings in 1939, when Algoma Ore Properties brought its Helen Mine, in the Michipicoten area of Ontario, back into production after it had been idle for 20 years. When production from Newfoundland was first included in Canadian statistics in 1949 the total domestic production amounted to 3,281,336 tons. Since the Second World War, and particularly since 1950, the exploration, development, and production of iron ore has been one of ever increasing intensity in this country. From initial shipments of 1,781,453 tons in 1954, the Iron Ore Company of Canada has rapidly expanded operations to where over 12 million tons were shipped from Seven Islands during 1956 to account for 60 percent of the total Canadian output. Production of 20 million tons a year of direct shipping ore from the Knob Lake area is anticipated in the early 1960's and a further increase to 30 million tons annually is envisaged.

In 1954, Canada had moved up to seventh place among the world producers of iron ore, following the United States, U.S.S.R., France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and West Germany. It is probable that 1956 production of about 22.5 million net (short) tons will enable her to take over fourth place. The annual statistical report of the American Iron and Steel Institute estimates total world production in 1955 at about 380 million net tons, with the countries listed in the following table contributing the major portion.

United States	116,933,600 net tons
Russia	76,518,400 net tons
France	55,038,941 net tons
Sweden	19,402,685 net tons
United Kingdom	18,233,600 net tons
Canada	17,377,252 net tons
West Germany	17,221,120 net tons

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

The search for iron ore in Canada that got underway after the Second World War is continuing at a rapid pace. In the widespread search for ore the accent is unquestionably on low grade deposits, carrying 30 to 40 percent iron, that can be readily concentrated into a high grade agglomerated product for shipment to markets in the United States and Western Europe.

In 1956, many areas and properties, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, were under active exploration by diamond drilling, geological, and geophysical examination. Favourable iron-bearing formations are known to extend in an almost continuous arc from the most northerly tip of the west coast of Ungava Bay, southward to the Wabush Lake area at the southern end of the Labrador-Quebec iron belt, and thence swinging westward to the Mistassini area of Quebec. Many companies are investigating various sections of this arc with the areas of Wabush Lake and that lying to the southwest of the northward trending "Labrador-Quebec Trough", which includes the general Mount Wright area, receiving the most attention. In Ontario, exploration continued with encouraging results in many areas of favourable iron-bearing formations.

The Quebec Cartier Mining Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of United States Steel Corporation, announced early in 1957 that it will spend an estimated \$200 million to bring into production its iron ore holdings in the vicinity of Mt. Wright, about 300 miles northwest of Quebec city and 150 miles north of Shelter Bay on the St. Lawrence. Since 1951, The Cartier Mining Company Limited had been actively exploring the area to the west of Wabush Lake as far as Matonipi Lake. A number of other companies prominent in the North American iron ore, and iron and steel, industries are engaged in large scale exploration programmes on extensive holdings from the Wabush Lake area west to Lake Mistassini. These include Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, Pickands Mather and Company, Iron Ore Company of Canada, Steel Company of Canada, and Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company.

At the far northern end of the Quebec-Labrador iron bearing arc, west of Ungava Bay, large reserves of concentrating grade iron ore were outlined by reconnaissance diamond drilling, geological, and geophysical surveys prior to 1956. Efforts of the companies with holdings in the area during 1956 have been devoted to the economics of mining, beneficiating, shipping, and lining up assured markets over long periods involving large annual shipments. Atlantic Iron Ore Limited and International Iron Ore Company Limited, both incorporated and controlled by Cyrus S. Eaton and

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