The other change is in the Blind River area, half-way between Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie. I have reference to the recent discoveries of uranium deposits in that area and in particular to those of Pronto Uranium Mines Limited and Algom Uranium Mines Limited. Pronto expects to commence production in September 1955 at a rate of 1,000 tons of ore daily. Algom is developing its Quirke Lake property toward production. Tentative plans call for a 3,000-ton-a-day mill and the company hopes to commence production in about two years.

Quebec-Labrador Deposits Now in Production

I now come to my native Province of Quebec and of course the major post-war change there is pretty much a matter of common knowledge throughout the mining world. Here in the United States you know them best as the Labrador iron ore deposits but in Canada we usually refer to them as either Quebec-Labrador or Labrador-Quebec deposits, depending largely on whether your home province is Newfoundland or Quebec. In any event, following pre-production expenditures of $250,000,000 output from the deposits became an accomplished fact late in June last when the first trainload was brought over the 360-mile railway to Seven Islands on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The ore was shipped to Philadelphia and some of it has doubtless been used to produce a Cadillac, a Buick, a pint-sized Nash, or possibly a gun or two for the common defence of our two countries.

The deposits form part of an iron-bearing belt of rocks known as the Labrador Trough and extending from well within Labrador through with some breaks, to Hudson Strait, a distance of over 400 miles. How many billions of tons of ore will eventually be disclosed in this trough is anyone's guess. The Cyrus Eaton interests of Cleveland and Fenimore Iron Mines Limited have disclosed what appear to be tremendous tonnages of iron-bearing material on the west side of Ungava Bay that are amenable to beneficiation.

Incidentally, the existence of a railway into the heart of this potentially rich Labrador-New Quebec region is bound to play an important role in the search for and development of deposits throughout the region.

The other changes in Quebec are of smaller dimensions than the iron ore developments but are quite sizeable also; the titanium ore deposits at Allard Lake in eastern Quebec, for instance. They were discovered in 1946 and are among the world's largest deposits of ilmenite. They are being developed by Kennecott Copper Corporation and New Jersey Zinc Company through a subsidiary, Quebec Iron and Titanium Corporation. The ore is shipped to the company's plant at Sorel, Quebec, where titanium dioxide concentrate is made for use in the pigment trade. Eventually, of course, when a cheap process is worked out, it is the intention to produce titanium metal.

Next is the big copper industry that is in the making in the Gaspe Peninsula where Noranda Mines Limited, through a subsidiary, is spending $40,000,000 to bring a large copper deposit into production. Operations are scheduled to start early next year at a daily rate of 6,500 tons, the largest initial milling rate in the history of Canadian mining.