



REFERENCE PAPERS

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No. 62 THE PRIMARY IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY
IN CANADA

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<u>Introductory Note</u>		

During the decade 1940-1950 Canadian primary iron and steel producers carried out an expansion without parallel in the history of the industry. Capacity in Canada increased 75 per cent compared with 66 per cent in the United States. During the war years, and with government assistance, \$125 million was spent on repair and maintenance, erection of blast, open-hearth and electric furnaces and the expansion of steel-fabricating facilities. Between 1945 and 1950, capital expenditures were devoted generally to modernization of existing mills and to diversification of rolling mill and other finishing facilities, but nearly \$60 million was spent on new plants as well. Among other results of these outlays were a new cold-strip mill, an electrolytic-tinning line and a mill for large-diameter pipe to serve some of the growing needs of the Canadian oil and gas industries. Other additions to plant were coke ovens and improved raw materials handling facilities. Repair and maintenance expenditures totalling \$85 million were also made in the post-war period.

With the steel shortage which developed following the outbreak of fighting in Korea, the question of further additions to Canadian primary iron and steel-making capacity arose. The upshot has been that all four major producers undertook substantial new expansions. The Dominion Foundries and Steel Company at Hamilton, Ontario, has completed the installation of a blast furnace to produce 300 thousand tons a year and of coke ovens and shipping facilities, at an