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IRON ORE IN CANADA IN 1962

Mineral Resources Division
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Background

Between 1886 and 1924, 6.5 million tons of iron ore were produced in Canada. During the following 14-year period no iron ore shipments were recorded. After production was resumed in 1939, when Algoma Ore Properties Limited brought its Helen Mine in the Michipicoten area of Ontario, back into production, the iron ore industry has grown rapidly, particularly within the last decade.

Between 1939 and 1948, almost all of Canada's production was derived from mines in Ontario. In 1949, Newfoundland entered Confederation and shipments from the Wabana Mine were included in Canada's total for the first time. Although production from Ontario mines has increased appreciably in recent years, the commencement of production from the Quebec-Labrador area in 1954 has resulted in Quebec and Newfoundland becoming the major iron ore producing provinces. British Columbia has contributed only a small part of the total Canadian shipments.

In 1961, the Canadian iron ore industry shipped over 18 million long tons* of ore valued at \$175 million. It ranked as the fifth most valuable segment of the Canadian mineral industry and made Canada the world's sixth largest producer of iron ore following Russia, the United States, France, China and Sweden. Despite its importance to the Canadian economy and its prominent international position, the Canadian iron ore industry was responsible for less than 4 per cent of 1961 world production of iron ore. Nevertheless, Canadians are justifiably proud of the progress the industry has made and anticipate its continuing growth and greater contributions to the country's general economy. It is recognized that the rapid growth of the industry has been owing in large part to participation in it by many of the big American iron and steel and merchant-ore companies.

It is of interest to note that it was a Canadian company which sparked the revival of the Canadian iron ore industry in 1939. Algoma Ore Properties, Limited, now a division of The Algoma Steel Corporation, Limited, which had previously mined direct-shipping goethite ore in the Michipicoten area of Ontario during the first quarter of this century, started production from a beneficiating-grade siderite orebody, the first operation of its kind on the North American continent, adjacent to the old Helen Mine. This operation has now an output capacity of about 2 million tons of sinter a year.

* Long tons of 2,240 pounds and throughout unless otherwise noted.