

production and much is exported throughout the world.

### *Forestry*

The pulp and paper industry is centred on the coniferous softwoods of the Gaspé Peninsula and northern Quebec. These softwoods comprise the bulk of Quebec's commercial forest. Northern Quebec has millions of hectares of boreal pulpwood forest. These are among Quebec's most valued assets. Conservation of these forests is a great concern and the provincial government operates its own fleet of Canadian CL-215 water-bombers to control the spread of forest fires. The CL-215 was designed and built in Montreal.

Quebec's timber industry is lucrative and supports 500 sawmills, but the pulp and paper industry is much larger. Quebec produces more than a third of Canada's pulp and paper and half of Canada's newsprint (the latter represents 20 per cent of world production). At least 60 plants process pulp and paper. Some are integrated plants which undertake the entire process from grinding logs to rolling newsprint.

### *Mining*

Canada produces 40 per cent of the world's chrysotile (an asbestos) and 80 per cent of it comes from Quebec. The first asbestos mine in Quebec was opened a century ago in the eastern townships. Since then a number of mines have been developed along a

100-km belt extending east from the town of Asbestos, the site of the world's largest known deposit.

Traditionally, Quebec's major strengths in metal mining have been copper and zinc. Major new iron-ore deposits are now being developed and Quebec is likely to become Canada's largest iron-ore producer. In 1910 a small lead-zinc mine opened near Quebec City and major deposits were discovered at Noranda. Massive production began there in 1951. Nearby are crushers and concentrators which process the ore before it is transported for shipment by sea.

Much of Quebec's mineral potential has still to be explored, but Quebec is a world leader in mineral refining. The Noranda copper facility in Montreal handles copper from mines throughout eastern Canada. It processes more than half of Canada's refined copper and is the largest copper refinery in the world. Before 1972, Quebec's steel industry was modest and relied on scrap metal as its raw material. The development of important iron-ore mines in the northeast has encouraged the development of an integrated steel industry.

### *Manufacturing and industry*

Quebec has an active textile and clothing industry. Indeed, Quebec fashions are sold around the world and have found particularly good markets in Asia. Much of Canada's winter-wear is designed and fashioned in Quebec —