government sales contracts and company amalgamations. At the end of the year there were only 10 producing uranium mines compared with 23 during the industry's peak period in 1959. There was an intensive research program under way to lower production costs and develop new industrial applications for uranium. My department investigated, and continues to investigate, the use of uranium as an additive agent in the development of higher strength low carbon steels.

Gold production increased slightly to 4.6 million troy ounces valued at $156 million. Some interest in new gold properties was revived owing to the return to near parity of the Canadian dollar in relation to the United States dollar toward the end of the year. The problems that plagued the industry and its dependent communities during the 1950's will continue and increase in intensity as ore reserves become depleted. The government in 1960 extended the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act a further three years to the end of 1963.

(Translation):

As for industrial minerals, it is of interest to note that our shipments of asbestos for 1960 are about 10 per cent higher than in 1959, at 140,538 tons, for an estimated value of almost $119 million. Representatives of that industry who visited the U.S.S.R. in 1959 have gathered information according to which that country can now produce as much asbestos as we can. Should the U.S.S.R. production keep on increasing, we would be faced with keen competition on the European market.

Canada is slowly becoming a producer of basic sulphur, a by-product of the natural gas of western Canada, and we presently occupy the fourth rank among countries of the free world which produce sulphur in one form or another. Our daily production capacity will reach 5,770 long tons when two new processing plants are built. In 1960 the electrical titanic ore smelter at Sorel, Quebec, also produced for $300,000 worth of titanic dioxide cinders and for about $11 million worth of remelting iron.

(Text):

I shall not dwell further on developments in the individual mineral fields, but should like to briefly outline some developments of the immediate future. They are quite encouraging. Crude petroleum production is expected to register an average annual increase of about 8 per cent over the next several years. Natural gas production and export will probably register the largest gains of any of the mineral commodities in the years ahead. This year the new nickel producing area at Thompson, Manitoba, will register its first full year's operation which, coupled with increasing nickel demand and the loss of Cuba's potential nickel supply to the United States market, places Canada in an even more dominant position as a major supplier of this vital commodity. Quebec Cartier Mining Company will begin shipments of iron ore concentrates from Port Cartier, Quebec, in 1961. Iron Ore Company of Canada and Wabush Iron Company Limited are also developing concentrating grade iron ore bodies in the Wabush lake area of Labrador.

Further strengthening and broadening of the mineral industry is assured through the development of production of zinc-copper ore bodies in the Mattagami area of Quebec; of asbestos deposits in the Baie Verte region of northern Newfoundland; of tungsten in the Northwest Territories; of iron ore deposits in Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia; of oil and gas fields in the western provinces and Yukon territory, and of renewed production from the potash deposits of Saskatchewan, which are the largest and highest grade in the world.

Mining developments in Canada are widespread and diversified. The continuing development of this country's mineral resources is of paramount importance to many other sectors of the Canadian industrial economy. New railroads, towns, docks, pipe lines, processing plants and hydroelectric power plants that are wholly attributable to and dependent upon mining developments have been built. Many service and ancillary operations have been established or enlarged to serve the industry. Much direct and indirect employment results from the continuing development of our mineral resources.

The practice followed over the years by my department of assisting the mineral industry by laboratory research projects in the mines branch has been accelerated during the past two or three years. The projects are carried on at the specific request of companies as well as in line with fundamental research plans directed toward greater development and utilization of Canada's mineral resources.

In this latter connection it is encouraging to note that the major portion of domestic base metal ore production is smelted and refined in Canada. This is a considerable achievement when it is realized that foreign smelting industries, based on countries whose ore reserves are becoming depleted or whose sources of concentrate are uncertain, require large amounts of concentrate to maintain operations. In spite of the demand of foreign smelters for ores and concentrates, over 90 per cent of our copper, over 60 per cent of our nickel and zinc and about 75 per cent of our lead is smelted and refined in Canada and sold in the domestic and export markets in pig or ingot form.