

To mention three other major developments in the mining field. You remember the excitement that gripped the United States following the discovery of vast oil fields and early development in Texas. Well, it's our turn this time - with the tremendous new opportunities that have opened up with the finding of large reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the Province of Alberta, and the prospects that these fields extend far beyond the presently proven boundaries. In 1946 Canada supplied about 10 per cent of her domestic requirements from domestic production. Today we are supplying about one third of a much larger total. There are good prospects that within a few years Canadians will be producing sufficient oil to meet all home demands. By this I don't mean that Canadians expect to become self-sufficient, but rather to achieve an overall balance by exchanging regional surpluses against imports from other countries, particularly from the United States.

After a lapse of many years, great things are stirring in iron ore mining. Two of the major developments are the further expansion of the Steep Rock mines in north-western Ontario and the opening up of the tremendous ore deposits in the Quebec-Labrador area. Virtually a new industry is being created in Canada. In 1946 we produced only about one and a half million tons. When Steep Rock and Quebec-Labrador are in full production we may be producing as much as 30 million tons of iron ore a year and vast orebodies are still being discovered.

The atomic age has brought to the fore the pressing need for uranium. We are fortunate enough in Canada to have made some of the major finds in the world of high grade uranium ores. The largest discoveries have been made in northwestern Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories where uranium ore is presently mined. But the encouraging thing is that a number of new deposits are being unearthed in various other parts of the country. Proven world deposits and production of uranium are shrouded in secrecy, but we have some reason to believe that the present expansion programme under way may make Canada the world's second largest producer in a year or two.

#### Atomic Energy

Plentiful supplies of uranium have facilitated the development of Canada's atomic energy research programme. As you know, Canadians have concentrated largely on basic scientific investigations and their application to man's "pursuit of happiness." For we believe that while in our generation atomic energy could be mankind's worst enemy, it could also become its greatest friend. So, we are working intensively to become friends with the "atom" - to have it help us to work towards a better and fuller life and to aid us in our incessant fight against two universal enemies: dreaded diseases and rapid depletion of natural resources.

Our scientists have made such satisfactory progress towards the development of atomic power for ultimate commercial uses and in other applications of atomic energy that the Canadian Government has just recently set up an agency, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, whose major task it is to push forward, in co-operation with private industry, its programme of making practical use of the discoveries made thus far and anticipated in the future. In fact, scientific progress