

producer of uranium ore. Most of this latter activity is in the Beaverlodge region north of Lake Athabasca. One mine, the Ace-Fay owned by Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, which in turn is owned by the Federal Government, has been in steady production since April 1953, and the privately owned Gunnar property about 20 miles distant from the Ace-Fay is scheduled for production by the fall of 1955. The fact that approximately \$20,000,000 is to be spent to bring the property into production will afford a suggestion of the size of the deposits. Another private property, the Rix-Athabasca, has been shipping crude ore to the Ace-Fay mill on a custom basis.

Saskatchewan's mineral production, exclusive of uranium, was valued at \$48,000,000 in 1953, double that of 1946.

Next is Manitoba, where two main changes have occurred since the war.

Early in 1951 the first discovery of crude oil in the province was made in the Virden area in southwestern Manitoba. Production is increasing steadily and is now at a rate of about 5,500 barrels a day. It is a light crude and is fed directly into the Interprovincial pipe line.

The other change is at Lynn Lake about 520 miles northwest of Winnipeg, where Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited brought a new nickel-copper property into production late in 1953. The company ships its nickel concentrates to its plant at Fort Saskatchewan near Edmonton, Alberta for treatment. Development of the Lynn Lake property involved construction of a 145-mile railway at a cost of \$15,000,000.

Iron and Nickel to Forefront in Ontario

We now come to Ontario, Canada's leading mineral producing province, source of about 70 per cent of the world nickel output, and a leading producer of copper, gold, the platinum metals, iron ore and cobalt. Production in 1953 was valued at \$460,500,000 compared with \$191,500,000 in 1946.

The most recent and in some respects the most colourful change in Ontario was the discovery of copper-zinc deposits in the Manitouwadge area about 40 miles north of Heron Bay on Lake Superior. The discovery property is owned by Geco Mines Limited and diamond drilling has disclosed huge tonnages. One hundred companies are now active in the area and over 10,000 claims have been staked.

The most important change in Ontario, however, was the bringing into production of the large hematite deposits in the Steep Rock area about 140 miles west of Port Arthur in 1945, when regular shipments were commenced. Thus for the first time, as the President of Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited, has stated, Central Canada had a producing iron range, an integrated group of ore deposits supporting several mining operations. Although exploration is far from complete, known reserves are sufficient to support a production of 10 million tons a year for decades, that tonnage being an early objective.