

Recently an attempt was made by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys to forecast the prospects for the Canadian industry in the years immediately ahead. Projected on the basis of company intentions and on probable activities in the iron ore field, it would seem that Canadian iron ore production by the mid - 1960's will be somewhere in the range^{of} 46 to 60 million long tons. Projecting further ahead to 1980, it seems possible that Canadian production may attain a figure in the general vicinity of 96 million long tons, of which an estimated 70 million tons may be exported to the United States, about 16 million to the United Kingdom, Western Europe and other destinations, and about 10 million tons may be consumed domestically. These estimates are, of course, based on the best available information as to the intentions and future growth of the United States iron and steel industry and to the extent in which the American industry will be supplied from Canadian iron ore sources.

Sufficient exploration has taken place in Canada to indicate very clearly that Canadian resources of iron ore are tremendous. Not only does Canada possess large reserves of direct-shipping iron ore but also vast quantities of low grade iron-bearing material of concentrating grade. Iron formation, for instance, extends in an almost continuous belt from the northerly tip of the west coast of Ungava Bay to an area lying about 150 miles north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The quantity of low grade iron-bearing material in this belt may be measured in billions of tons. It is meaningless to place an arithmetic figure on the tonnage present as insufficient detailed diamond drilling has been carried out for adequate assessment. Not only in Quebec but also in Ontario there are large areas of low grade iron formation. The shortages of iron ore that do exist in Canada are regional shortages, such as the shortage on the Pacific Coast of Canada. There is, in fact, an absolute abundance of iron ore in Canada, sufficient to supply the Canadian domestic and export market for generations to come.

The following brief selective comments touch on the highlights of individual operations in Canada - it is not possible to be other than brief or selective, inasmuch as there were at least 60 companies active in the iron ore exploration, development and production fields during 1956.++

++See references at end of paper