

## MINERAL PRODUCTION A RECORD \$1,454,000,000

**1954 SURVEY:** Boosted by new peak values for the four main groups - metals, non-metals, fuels and structural materials - the overall value of Canada's mineral production in 1954 climbed to an all-time high total of \$1,454,000,000, according to the Bureau's annual estimate. This was \$118,000,000 or 8.8% higher than the 1953 value of \$1,336,000,000 and followed a rise of 3.9% or \$50,961,150 in 1953 over 1952. All Provinces shared in the increased value in 1954.

Metals produced in 1954 were valued at \$763,000,000, an increase of 7.6% over the 1953 value of \$709,000,000. Gold production rose to 4,280,000 fine ounces from 4,056,000 and the value to \$145,814,000 from \$139,598,000. Copper production was encouraged by demand, rising to 599,851,000 pounds from 506,504,000 and the value to \$174,139,000 from \$150,954,000. Nickel production advanced to 319,983,000 pounds from 287,386,000 and the value to \$180,196,000 from \$160,430,000.

## NEW IRON MINES

Production of lead increased to 442,543,000 pounds from 387,412,000 and the value to \$58,991,000 from \$50,077,000, but zinc production fell to 747,718,000 pounds from 803,523,000 and the value to \$89,278,000 from \$96,101,000. Iron ore shipments climbed to a new peak total of 7,280,000 pounds from 6,510,000 and the value to \$46,758,000 from \$44,103,000. Iron ore shipments from the new iron mines in New Quebec and Labrador counterbalanced the lessened exports to steel plants in the Great Lakes area. The year's output of silver rose to 31,542,000 fine ounces from 28,299,000 and the value to \$26,262,000 from \$23,774,000.

Mineral fuels were valued at \$354,700,000 in 1954, an increase of nearly 13% over the \$314,200,000 in 1953. Crude petroleum continued to lead all other minerals in value of produc-

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**UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS:** Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit received in local offices across Canada numbered 187,744 in November. While this is an increase of some 60,000 over the 127,609 claims recorded in October, it is a slight decline from the figure of 188,881 for November, 1953.

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Canada's composite average index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale moved within narrow limits in December as the total index changed from 223.4 to 223.5 between the weeks of November 26 and December 24. The December 1954 preliminary average index of 223.2 compares with a 1954 low of 221.7 in September and 225.8 in December 1953.

tion. The year's output amounted to 95,480,000 barrels valued at \$245,996,000 versus 80,899,000 barrels valued at \$200,582,000. Natural gas production increased to 122,854,500 M cubic feet valued at \$12,683,000 from 100,986,000 M cubic feet valued at \$10,877,000, but coal production fell to 14,825,000 tons valued at \$96,078,000 versus 15,901,000 tons valued at \$102,722,000.

The value of other non-metals rose in 1954 to \$136,600,000 from \$126,039,000 in 1953. The greater portion of this total was derived from the production of 966,900 tons of asbestos valued at \$93,080,000 versus 911,000 tons valued at \$86,053,000 the year before. The year's output of gypsum amounted to 3,957,000 tons valued at \$7,054,000 versus 3,841,000 tons valued at \$7,400,000, and the production of salt amounted to 962,000 tons valued at \$8,507,000 versus 955,000 tons valued at \$6,975,000.

## STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

Production of structural materials amounted in value to \$199,386,000 versus \$187,202,000 the year before. Clay products - brick, tile, etc. - were produced to the value of \$31,520,000 versus \$29,778,000. The year's output of cement totalled 22,553,000 barrels valued at \$59,405,000 as compared with 22,238,000 barrels worth \$58,842,000. Lime production was slightly lower at 1,217,000 tons valued at \$14,333,000 versus 1,229,000 tons valued at \$14,484,000. Sand and gravel rose to 105,431,000 tons from 101,034,000 and the value to \$56,885,000 from \$53,485,000.

Ontario led the Provinces in the value of mineral produced in 1954 at \$484,993,000 (\$465,877,000 in 1953), followed by Alberta at \$281,462,000 (\$248,863,000), Quebec \$275,141,000 (\$251,882,000), and British Columbia \$161,309,000 (\$158,488,000).

**TRANS-CANADA PROGRESS:** Construction in many areas during 1954 continued to show good progress in spite of problems posed by unusually bad weather and other physical obstacles in several parts of the country, federal Works Minister Winters stated December 31 in his year-end report on the Trans-Canada Highway programme.

Total mileage paved now stands at 1,050 and another 400 miles are graded and ready for paving. While bad weather caused serious delays in work schedules, as much as six weeks during the mid-year construction season, a total of 223 miles of paving were added to previous completed contracts and 191 miles of new grading were also completed. In addition, 109 of 134 underpasses, bridges and overpasses designed for the Highway were finished by the end of November 1954.