

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROGRESS

New hydro-electric capacity added in 1956 was slightly higher and there was increased activity in the construction of thermal electric plants, Resources Minister Jean Lesage revealed in his annual statement on Hydro-electric Progress in Canada.

The 845,000 horse-power added to the national total this year exceeded last year's figure by about 6,000 horse-power. The greatest single addition was the 450,000 horse-power brought into operation at Quebec's Ber-simis No. 1 development. British Columbia's biggest single contribution was the addition of the fourth unit of 150,000 horse-power to the Aluminum Company of Canada's plant at Kemano. Canada's total capacity now stands at 18,356,148 horse-power, or less than 28 per cent of the total resources.

Construction work still in progress indicates the addition of more than one and a half million horse-power in 1957 and probably another 2,500,000 horse-power in 1958.

New thermal-electric plants and additions to present plants came into operation in nearly every province and considerable construction now in progress is scheduled for operation next year.

The Province of Quebec continued to lead in hydro-electric development with 514,300 horse-power added this year and with present construction forecasting the addition of approximately 4 million horse-power during the next five or six years. British Columbia's new power additions reached 243,500 horse-power with about half a million horse-power under construction for 1957 operation.

Ontario's Hydro-Electric Commission completed a 74,000 horse-power installation in the northern part of the province and other construction indicates the tremendous effort being put forth to meet the growth of power demand in the province. Load increases are expected to require large additions to thermal capacity as well as hydro expansion.

RECORD MINERAL PRODUCTION

Canada's mineral production in 1956 topped all previous records by a wide margin, passing the \$2 billion dollar mark for the first time, according to the preliminary annual estimate of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Value for the year is put at \$2,067,699,000, exceeding 1955's total by \$272,388,000 or 15 per cent, nearly double the 1950 value of \$1,045,450,000 and more than triple 1947's total of \$644,870,000.

New high records were set during 1956 in the total value of all main classes of minerals, increases being particularly pronounced in mineral fuels and metallics. Among individual minerals there were outstanding gains in crude petroleum, iron ore, copper, uranium, asbestos and cement, and lesser but substantial increases in nickel, zinc, salt, coal, natural gas, and sand and gravel. There were lower values for gold, lead and lime. Increases heavily outnumbered decreases among the large number of other minerals.

Boosted by a large increase in crude petroleum, now by far Canada's leading mineral product from a value standpoint, the mineral fuels group rose more than 24 per cent in total value to \$514,850,000 from \$414,318,000. Crude petroleum jumped to \$401,851,000 from \$305,640,000, coal to \$95,467,000 from \$93,579,000, and natural gas to \$17,543,000 from \$15,099,000.

COPPER CLIMBS

The value of all metallics climbed to \$1,134,354,000 from \$1,007,840,000 in 1955. With larger output and higher prices, copper topped the other metals with a substantial rise in value to \$291,470,000 from \$239,756,-

000. Nickel was next in order at \$223,344,000, up from \$215,866,000, and iron ore jumped to \$156,328,000 from \$110,436,000. The value of the gold output fell to \$150,808,000 from \$156,789,000, but zinc rose to \$125,476,000 from \$118,306,000. Lead eased to \$57,907,000 from \$58,315,000, while uranium rose to \$39,577,000 from \$26,032,000, silver to \$25,832,000 from \$24,676,000, platinum to \$15,585,000 from \$14,748,000, cobalt to \$9,373,000 from \$8,564,000, and selenium to \$6,858,000 from \$3,203,000.

Non-metallics as a group reached a total value of \$171,241,000, more than 18 per cent larger than 1955's total of \$144,921,000. Asbestos rose in value to \$109,666,000 from \$96,191,000, salt to \$13,917,000 from \$10,122,000 gypsum to \$8,301,000 from \$8,037,000, sulphur to \$7,440,000 from \$5,985,000, and titanium dioxide to \$6,771,000 from \$5,193,000.

Structural materials as a group moved up more than 8 per cent to \$247,254,000 from \$228,232,000 in the preceding year. Cement rose in value to \$77,876,000 from \$65,650,000, sand and gravel to \$72,637,000 from \$67,775,000, and clay products to \$38,062,000 from \$35,260,000. Stone declined to \$43,349,000 from \$43,737,000 and lime to \$15,329,000 from \$15,811,000.

INCREASES GENERAL

Increased production values in 1956 were recorded for all provinces except Nova Scotia. In the Territories, production values were higher for the Yukon but lower for the Northwest Territories.