

SECOND GOLD PRODUCER: Canada produced 4,419,570 fine ounces of gold, valued at \$151,458,664, in 1952 compared with 4,392,751 fine ounces valued at \$161,872,873, in 1951. The Mint price at Ottawa averaged \$34.27 in 1952 compared with \$36.85 in 1951, the lower price in 1952 being a result of the rise in value of the Canadian dollar.

Seven mines ceased operations during 1952, but the loss in production was offset by increases in the output of some of the larger mines, such as Lamaque in western Quebec and Giant Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, and by the addition of Bonwhit and Hugh-Pam in Ontario to the list of producers.

Gold is, in value, the chief single contributor to Canada's mineral output. This country holds second place in world output, which in 1951, the latest year for which figures are available, totalled 24,000,000 fine ounces.

With the greatly increased interest in base metals, prospecting for gold continued to decline. The few prospects now being explored are chiefly those adjoining established mines, and are being examined with a view to discovering extensions of known orebodies.

ARMS FOR ALLIES: Canada's armament shipments to Europe for the month of June will include more than 700 vehicles of all types; 18, 40-millimetre quick-firing guns; equipment for 20-millimetre guns, 25-pounders and medium artillery; and a hundred cases of tools, storage batteries and spare parts.

The June shipments are being made to Norway, Italy and Portugal as part of Canada's commitments under the mutual aid agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Since Canada's first Arms contribution to Europe in November 1950 when Parliament voted \$300,000,000 for mutual aid to NATO countries, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of arms, ammunition and military equipment have been made to Britain, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg. For the most part this materiel consists of surplus stocks left over from the Second World War and is being replaced in Canada by that of more recent design.

\$806,000,000 CHEMICAL PRODUCTS: Continuing the steady advances of recent years, Canada's production of chemicals and allied products last year climbed three per cent in value to a record \$806,200,000 from \$776,489,000 in 1951. The gain, which brought the production value to more than eight times the 1923 figure, over five times the 1939 figure, and more than double the 1944 wartime peak of \$371,000,000, was about the same as that recorded for all manufacturing industries and for the entire industrial sector of the nation's economy.

TRADE IN SECURITIES: Trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in April resulted in a small outflow of capital, according to the Bureau's monthly report. Net purchases of \$5,500,000 from the United States were offset by net sales to other countries aggregating \$5,000,000. While sales to the United Kingdom receded from the high levels of March, net sales to other overseas countries rose to heights not reached since the early months of 1951.

The broad pattern of international security trading characteristics of transactions in 1952 continued in April. There were outflows of capital for the repurchases from the United States of government bonds (mainly provincial issues in April) offset by net sales of securities of Canadian corporations to the United States and overseas.

Sales to all countries in April totalled \$43,700,000 as compared with \$56,300,000 in the preceding month, while purchases amounted to \$44,200,000 compared with \$42,100,000. Month's sales to the United States were \$34,200,000 compared with \$46,100,000 in March, and the purchases totalled \$39,700,000 compared with \$36,400,000.

CROP CONDITIONS: In most areas of the Prairie Provinces warmer weather has promoted rapid development of early-seeded spring grains, forage and fall-sown crops, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported on June 19. With some exceptions, good progress had been made with late seeding. It was evident, however, that, due to unusually wet weather in many districts during the normal seeding season, there would be some shift in acreage from wheat to other grains and summerfallow. Weed growth had been generally heavy but no serious insect infestations had been reported. Some hail damage had occurred in southern Alberta.

TO EVEREST'S CONQUERORS: The Department of External Affairs on June 23 released the text of messages of congratulation that the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, has sent to Colonel John Hunt, Kt. C.B.E., D.S.O., leader of the British expedition which conquered Mount Everest, and to Mr. E.P. Hillary, K.B.E., and Tensing Bhutia, the men who reached the summit. These messages have been conveyed to the climbers following their return from Mount Everest to Khatmandu, the capital of Nepal.

To Colonel Hunt, Mr. St. Laurent said, in part: "I was in London when the news was received that the expedition led by you had conquered Mount Everest. I shared the elation felt by your fellow-countrymen, by all the peoples of the Commonwealth, and, I am sure, by men and women of goodwill everywhere...."