

Operations of the old age security fund, which are not included in budgetary transactions, resulted in a deficit of \$11.6 million for January 1959, and an accumulated deficit of \$158.8 million for the ten months to January 31, 1959. Last year for the ten months to January 31, 1958, there was an accumulated deficit of \$73.2 million. These deficits were covered by temporary loans by the Minister under the terms of the Old Age Security Act.

AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET AIRLINE

A traffic agreement between Trans-Canada Air Lines and Aeroflot, the Russian national airline, has been signed with provisions for the first time for the through movement of passengers, baggage and goods.

This new interline agreement will enable a passenger to purchase a ticket from any Trans-Canada Air Lines office for transportation to any place in Russia or on any route operated by Aeroflot. It is also applicable for the transportation of baggage and cargo shipments. Until now a passenger in Canada desiring to travel to Moscow, for example, has been obliged to present an exchange order to any one of the national air carriers in Europe for the issuance of a ticket on Aeroflot. Under the new agreement, however, passengers can be ticketed and their baggage sent right through to their destination.

TCA first began negotiations with the civil air authorities in Russia in September 1957. One of the chief obstacles in the signing, which took so long, was the language problem. Every letter and document had to be translated and sent back to Moscow and, vice versa, to Montreal.

TCA now has interline traffic agreements with 170 airlines throughout the world.

MINING INDUSTRY IN 1957

Production of minerals in Canada in 1957 increased 5 per cent to a record \$2,190,322,000 from 1956's previous peak total of \$2,084,906,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its annual general review of the mining industry. Estimated value for 1958 showed a decline of about 3 per cent to \$2,122,153,000. Value per capita increased to \$132.03 from \$129.65 in 1956.

Value of metallics produced in 1957 advanced to \$1,159,579,000 from \$1,148,350,000 in the preceding year, non-metallics to \$169,061,000 from \$160,342,000, fuels to \$564,777,000 from \$518,761,000 and structural materials to \$296,905,000 from \$259,453,000. Group values for 1958 were: metallics, \$1,142,140,000; non-metallics, \$158,132,000; fuels, \$507,732,000; and structural materials, \$314,149,000.

The index of physical volume of mineral production, on the 1935-39 base, was 290.1 in 1957 compared to 272.5 in 1956. Tonnage of ore mined or rock quarried is an indicator of mining activities, such as drilling, blasting, hauling and processing. During 1957 this tonnage amounted to 166,455,000 as compared to 150,398,000 in 1956.

Top 10 minerals, listed in order of value in 1957: petroleum, \$453,594,000 (\$406,562,000 in 1956); nickel, \$258,977,000 (\$222,205,000); copper, \$206,898,000 (\$292,958,000); iron ore, \$167,221,000 (\$160,362,000); gold, \$148,757,000 (\$151,024,000); uranium, \$136,304,000 (\$45,732,000); asbestos, \$104,489,000 (\$99,860,000); zinc, \$100,043,000 (\$125,437,000); cement, \$93,167,000 (\$75,233,000); and sand and gravel, \$91,939,000 (\$81,957,000).

CRUDE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Topping all previous years, production of crude petroleum in Canada rose by 6 per cent in 1957 to 181,848,000 barrels from 171,981,000 in the preceding year and the value by 11 per cent to \$45,594,000 from \$406,562,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual industry report. The number of operating wells also rose to a record total of 14,946 from 13,142 in 1956.

Apparent supply of crude petroleum also reached a new peak of 238,079,000 barrels in 1957 versus 235,715,000 in 1956. This takes into account domestic production of 181,848,000 barrels versus 171,981,000 in 1956, imports of 111,905,000 barrels versus 106,641,000, and exports of 55,674,000 barrels versus 42,908,000.

Decreasing 4.5 per cent from the preceding year, Alberta wells produced 137,492,000 barrels in 1957 as compared to 143,910,000 in 1956, but output from wells in Saskatchewan rose sharply to 36,861,000 barrels from 21,077,000. Production in Manitoba rose to 6,090,000 barrels from 5,787,000; Ontario to 623,700 barrels from 593,400; British Columbia to 340,900 from 148,500; and New Brunswick to 19,400 barrels from 16,600. Production in the Northwest Territories fell to 420,800 barrels from 449,400.

Value of production in Alberta rose slightly in 1957 to \$355,555,000 from \$353,629,000 in 1956, and the value for Saskatchewan more than doubled, rising to \$79,325,000 from \$36,253,000. Manitoba's value rose to \$15,468,000 from \$13,633,000; Ontario's to \$2,160,000 from \$1,958,000; British Columbia's to \$763,700 from \$302,200; and New Brunswick's to \$27,200 from \$23,300. For the Northwest Territories the year's value dropped to \$294,600 from \$762,800.

Oil fields in Alberta which produced in excess of 2,000,000 barrels in 1957 were Acheson, Bonnie Glen, Fenn-Big Valley, Golden Spike, Joarcam, Joffre, Leduc-Woodbend; Pem-