

likely that Canadian output of the two metals will have increased by these percentages by 1975. In other words, there seems little danger of Canadian production increasing to a point where it will give American producers much real cause for concern.

Turning now to the non-metallics and structural materials, our production of these minerals, with the chief exception of asbestos, gypsum, and barite, is marketed within Canada. There has been a tremendous growth in this branch of our mineral industry as is evident from the increase in the value of production from \$110,000,000 in 1946 to some \$311,000,000 in 1953. For asbestos and the other minerals we export, this growth is mainly attributable to world demand; for the others it is accounted for mainly by the unprecedented demand for raw materials in Canada's rapidly expanding chemical and construction industries.

#### Plenty of Elbow Room for Mineral Exploration

So far I have made little direct mention of the outlook for the mineral industry. Actually the matter of outlook is largely evident from the growth the industry has been witnessing, the chief features of which I have traced for you. In the main we have only really got started in the development of our wealth of crude oil, natural gas, and iron ore. The known reserves are large and the territory remaining to be explored is large. In fact this latter is true of the industry as a whole. The Province of Quebec affords a good illustration. Much if not most of the northern stretches of the province remain to be explored in any detail for minerals. Likewise large sections of the Northwest Territories have received only limited exploratory attention as yet.

In this connection I might state that the development of Canada in depth is very much in the mind of our Federal Government. I mean by this that we are each year making explorations and investigations in the more northerly mainland regions and in the Far North as well in order to gain knowledge of the potentialities of these regions and to further their development. Partly to this end the Geological Survey of Canada two years ago undertook a reconnaissance survey of a 57,000 square mile portion of the Territories lying north of the 60th parallel and west of Hudson Bay. The survey showed about 25 per cent of the area covered to be favourable for mineral deposition. This year we are covering a large area immediately to the north. By use of the helicopter and other modern devices we can cover more ground in one season than we could in 25 years by the older methods.

As you can see, then, there is plenty of elbow room and our knowledge of the geology of these areas suggests that the hunting will be good for those willing to take the risks that go with all mining ventures.

I have indicated that the outlook for the base metals will be governed largely by the extent of the demand in the United States. Your Government is one of the largest, if not the largest, purchasers of Canadian nickel and has contracted for the purchase of 260,000 tons over a ten-year period at prices that will serve to stimulate production.