

IRON ORE RESERVES: Sufficient exploration has taken place in Canada to indicate very clearly that Canadian resources of iron ore are tremendous according to the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Not only does Canada possess large reserves of direct-ship- ping iron ore, but also vast resources of low grade iron-bearing material of concentrating grade. Iron formation, for instance, extends in an almost continuous belt from 150 miles north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the nor- therly tip of the west coast of Ungava Bay. The quantities of low grade iron-bearing mat- erial of concentrating grade contained in this belt can be measured in terms of billions of tons. It is meaningless to place an arithmetic figure on the actual amount of iron material present because the figure would amount to little more than a guess based principally on visual estimates supported by a relatively small amount of diamond drilling. And these are not the only deposits of low grade iron in Canada. There are a number of large deposits of low grade iron in Ontario, each one of which can be measured in many millions of tons.

Even the deposits of direct-shipping iron ore, currently being mined in the vicinity of Schefferville, Quebec and Steep Rock, Ontario, contain at least a billion long tons of iron ore. At the moment, all that is drilled off and calculated mathematically amounts to about 3/4 of a billion long tons, but no one who knows these deposits believes that this is the total amount of ore present. At Wabana, New- foundland, it is virtually impossible to cal- culate accurately the amount of ore contained in these large submarine deposits. Estimates have ranged all the way from 4 billion tons to 10 billion tons. At the current rate of pro- duction, these deposits, which have already been mined for nearly 60 years, will last for another 840 to 2400 years depending on which estimate one chooses to select and assuming an anticipated extraction rate of 60 per cent.

What shortages of iron ore that there are in this continent are regional shortages only, such as exist in the Pacific coast of Canada. There is no absolute shortage of iron ore either in Canada or on this continent as a whole. There is, in fact, an absolute abun- dance sufficient to supply both our domestic and export market for generations to come.

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1957 APPLE CROP: First estimates place Can- ada's 1957 apple crop at 12,718,000 bushels, 2.4 per cent larger than the preceding year's revised total of 12,424,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's apple crop in Nova Scotia is estimated at 1,950,000 bushels; New Brunswick, 375,000; Quebec, 2,080,000; Ontario, 2,738,000; and British Columbia, 5,575,000. Revised estimates for 1956: Nova Scotia, 2,206,000 bushels; New Brunswick, 275,000; Quebec, 2,820,000; Ontario, 2,992,000; and British Columbia 4,131,000 bushels.

FISHERIES COMMISSIONERS: Fisheries Minister J. Angus MacLean has announced the reappoint- ment of three Canadian members of the three- nation International North Pacific Fisheries Commission. They are J.M. Buchanan and R. T. Hager of Vancouver, B.C., and James Cameron of Madeira Park, B.C. Their terms as commis- sioners, which expired on June 30, are now ex- tended for another two years.

Deputy Minister of Fisheries George R. Clark, Canada's fourth commissioner, is chair- man of the commission, the membership of which is made up of representatives of Canada, the United States and Japan.

Under the Commission's programme a wide- spread investigation of the fish resources of the North Pacific Ocean is being conducted with particular emphasis on salmon and king crabs.

Headquarters of the Commission are at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. The 1957 annual meeting will be held in November in that city.

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NEW MINISTER NAMED: Mr. Paul Comtois, who was elected Progressive Conservative member of Parliament for Nicolet-Yamaska, Quebec, in the recent general election, has been named Min- ister of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker, who announced Mr. Comtois' appointment on August 8, also said that Mr. Douglas Harkness, M.P. for Calgary East and Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, had been named Min- ister of Agriculture. Mr. Harkness will retain the Northern Affairs and National Resources portfolio until he has completed certain negotiations which he has undertaken.

Eight parliamentary assistants were also named by the Prime Minister.

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BREAKFAST FOODS: Selling value of factory shipments from Canada's prepared breakfast foods industry climbed 8.3 per cent in 1956 to a record \$30,968,000 from 1955's previous high of \$28,584,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual industry report. More establishments (18 versus 17 in 1955) em- ployed more people (1,374 versus 1,262) and paid out more in salaries and wages (\$4,752,000 versus \$4,139,000). Cost of materials was also greater (\$12,399,000 versus \$10,497,000) and value added by manufacture (\$18,704,000 versus \$17,639,000).

Factory shipments of ready-to-serve break- fast foods increased in 1956 to 85,731,000 pounds valued at \$25,558,000 from 1955's 78,192,000 pounds worth \$23,663,000. Included in this category were: com flakes at 28,923,000 pounds worth \$8,447,000 (27,712,000 pounds worth \$8,153,000 a year earlier); wheat and bran flakes at 9,974,000 pounds worth 2,733,000 (10,177,000 worth \$2,698,000); and puffed grains at 20,900,000 pounds worth \$8,127,000 (16,039,000 worth \$6,834,000).