



## MINING

The mining industry in Canada is four centuries old. Copper, iron and silver were first discovered in 1604, coal in 1672 and iron in 1667. The first iron smelter, La Compagnie des Forges, was established in 1737 in Quebec. The Geological Survey of Canada, which enjoys a world-wide reputation, was established in 1843.

The discovery of gold in the Fraser River in 1858 attracted widespread interest. As the California gold strike of 1849 waned, miners flocked north to Canada to discover gold in the Yukon River in 1869. In 1896, the famous Klondike discovery was made, and thousands of prospectors flocked into the Yukon.

The mining industry in Canada ranks first among primary industries in both the net and aggregate values of output. Raw and semi-processed mineral products amounted to 27 per cent of the nation's exports in 1972.

Mineral production—metallic, non-metallic, fuels and structural materials—in 1972 was valued at \$6.4 billion. Canada leads the world in the production of asbestos, nickel, silver and zinc, and is second in the production of gypsum, molybdenum, potash, uranium and elemental sulphur. Canada supplies 56 per cent of the Western world's nickel requirements and produces almost 550 million pounds a year.

Canada also produces 35 per cent of the world's asbestos, 29 per cent of the zinc, 16 per cent of the silver, 23 per cent of the molybdenum, and 14 per cent of the potash and lead. It is the third-largest producer of aluminum. The largest aluminum smelter in the world, located at Arvida, Quebec, has a capacity of 450,000 tons a year. One of the most modern plants in North America for the production of aluminum sheets is located at Kingston, Ontario. Its annual capacity is estimated at 55,000 tons.

Crude-oil production in 1972 was 554 million barrels. Proved reserves of crude oil in Canada at the beginning of 1972 were 8.0 billion barrels, or the equivalent of 16 years of production at the current rate. Proved natural-gas reserves will last 24 years at the present production rate.

Iron-ore deposits now under exploration will make Canada in the near future a major iron-exporting nation. From 1944 to 1972, production increased from 0.6 million tons to 50.7 million tons valued at \$1.9 million and \$563 million respectively.

