

value of the country's exports, including nearly half the world's newsprint needs and a diversity of packaging and shipping materials. Based on those rich resources, Canada is also the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber and wood products, which include plywood and other construction materials.

Minerals: Huge developments in recent years have made the metallic and non-metallic mineral industries one of the fastest-growing groups of industries in Canada, accounting for nearly one-third of Canadian export values. With an average annual growth-rate of over 8 per cent in the 1960s, the extraction and processing of minerals of all kinds was, by 1970, adding to the Canadian economy gross revenues of more than \$5,500 million a year -- with vast areas yet to be tapped.

Canada is the world's leading producer of nickel, zinc and asbestos, and is among the top two or three leading producers of the following: gold, uranium, molybdenum, titanium, gypsum, potash, silver, sulphur, cobalt, platinum metals and lead. Canada also ranks high in the production of iron ore, magnesium, copper, barites and several other minerals.

Among these are very extensive resources of oil and natural gas, the first major discoveries of which were made at Leduc, Alberta, in 1947. These discoveries were quickly followed by hundreds more until, by the late 1960s, Canada was producing, on balance, all its needs in petroleum and natural gas and exporting some of this production to the Western United States. Based on these resources, Canada has also become a significant producer of petrochemicals.

Geography and Transportation

Canada is the second-largest country in the world, the largest being the Soviet Union. It extends 4,000 miles across approximately the 45th Parallel of the North American continent and has an area of nearly 4,000,000 square miles.

Since its main topographic barriers extend in a north-south direction, whole sections of the country are separated by challenging topographical obstacles, including water barriers on the coasts, rough, rocky terrain between the Atlantic seaboard provinces and Quebec (the earliest settled lands), and vast stretches of rock, water and barren muskeg north of Lakes Huron and Superior over the 800 miles between Eastern Canada and the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Finally, there is the rugged Rocky Mountain barrier separating the prairies from the Pacific coast province of British Columbia. If the means to bridge these great natural barriers had not been found, Canada would probably never have achieved nationhood.

The highlights of transportation development and progress in Canada are many and varied: the construction of the St. Lawrence canal system prior to 1867; the linking together of the various sections of Canada by the railway systems; the advent of the motor vehicle; early exploration of the North by air, and the founding of national airlines. Then, following the Second