

Alberta oil-rig



## 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 moved into the Yukon.

The mining industry in Canada ranks second only to agriculture among primary industries in the net value of its output, and leads all primary industries in the aggregate value of output. Raw and semi-processed mineral products amounted to 33 per cent of the nation's exports in 1967.

Mineral production — metallic, non-metallic, fuels and structural materials — in 1967 was valued at \$4.4 billion. Canada leads the world in the production of nickel and zinc, and is second in the production of asbestos, gypsum, molybdenum, sulphur and uranium. Canada supplies 70 per cent of the Western world's nickel requirements and produces over 500 million pounds a year.

Canada also produces 40 per cent of the world's asbestos, 19 per cent of its sulphur requirements and 17 per cent of its potash. It is the third largest producer of aluminum. The largest aluminum smelter in the world, located at Arvida, Quebec, has a capacity of 373,000 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 35,000 tons.

Crude-oil production in 1967 was 353 million barrels. Reserves of crude oil in Canada from the beginning of 1967 were 9.1 billion barrels, or the equivalent of 26 years of production at the current rate. Natural-gas reserves will last 32 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 1967, production increased from 0.6 million tons to 41.3 million tons valued at \$1.9 million and \$455 million respectively.

