

CANADA STEPS UP ORE OUTPUT

Into Port Arthur on Lake Superior rolls an unceasing flow of Canada's rich iron ore. American smelting furnaces can swallow every ton and Canada, like Britain, stands in need of dollars.

UP

Scene 8

Source of this flow of mineral wealth is Steep Rock mine, 4 hundred feet below the level of a drained out lake. By day and night, giant grabs scoop reddish mud - in three ten bites - into a steady moving line of trucks.

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Scene 13

But for the stubborn work of a Canadian prospector this bed of natural ore might not have been discovered. Success of the underwater mining operation was once very much in doubt. Washing the ore was the biggest snag. Right up till three years ago, prospecting went on around the shores of Steep Rock Lake, before it was decided that the main ore body lay under the water.

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Scene 16

Hundreds of manhours were spent preparing the damming of the lake's arm. Surveyors brought up special pumps to suck up 125 billion gallons of water. 3 million cubic yards of rock and earth were drilled to divert the river into a new course.

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Today, ore exports reach an all-time high and Canada's red mud sails out to meet the world's steel target.