

In November 1965, Rio Algom acquired from Dow Chemical of Canada Limited the latter's 50-p.c. interest in the capital of Rio Tinto Dow Limited and then changed the name of the new wholly-owned subsidiary to Rio Tinto Nuclear Products, Limited with plans to construct a 150-ton-a-year uranium refinery at the Nordic mine site. Rio Algom visualizes savings in producing uranium fuel products, which are now produced in Canada only by Eldorado, since it will be possible to commence production of higher grade products from the uranium while it is still in solution in the mill circuit.

The uranium industry has been encouraged by the unparalleled increase in the number of commitments to build nuclear power plants in several countries. Canada's own nuclear power program was marked by the official opening of the Pickering, Ont., reactor site where the first two 500-MWe units of a contemplated eight-unit plant will be built for The Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission. In May 1965 it was announced that consideration was being given by Hydro-Quebec to the construction of a 250-MWe nuclear power plant. Another highlight of 1965 was the completion of a research reactor (WR-1) in November at the new Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment, Pinawa, Man. Meanwhile, Canada's first nuclear power station, located at Rolphton, Ont., continued to operate successfully and the opening of the 200-MWe Douglas Point plant, which was scheduled for the autumn of 1965, was delayed until late 1966 or early 1967.

Canada has reserves of 210,000 tons of  $U_3O_8$  that can be recovered in a price range of \$5 to \$10 a pound of  $U_3O_8$ . These reserves constitute one third of the western world total.

15.—Quantity and Value of Producers' Shipments of Uranium ( $U_3O_8$ ), by Province, 1956-65

Year	Ontario		Saskatchewan		Northwest Territories		Canada	
	Quantity <sup>1</sup>	Value	Quantity <sup>1</sup>	Value	Quantity <sup>1</sup>	Value	Quantity <sup>1</sup>	Value
	lb.	\$	lb.	\$	lb.	\$	lb.	\$
1956.....	906,814	9,361,867	2,780,534	27,194,202	873,912	9,176,076	4,561,060	45,732,145
1957.....	7,970,598	82,940,763	4,462,552	44,561,532	838,264	8,801,769	13,271,414	136,304,364
1958.....	19,970,136	210,149,700	5,924,253	59,815,924	910,843	9,572,847	26,805,232	279,538,471
1959.....	25,492,171	268,529,993	5,372,685	54,457,321	919,333	8,155,729	31,784,189	331,143,043
1960.....	19,793,727	211,983,533	4,824,431	48,722,961	1,077,211	9,231,698	25,495,369	269,935,192
1961.....	14,970,594	151,080,610	4,310,871	44,631,014	—	—	19,281,465	195,691,624
1962.....	12,805,203	118,283,081	4,053,966	39,900,588	—	—	16,859,169	158,183,669
1963.....	12,770,421	102,951,146	3,932,615	33,957,973	—	—	16,703,066	136,909,119
1964.....	11,805,143	63,605,944	2,765,164	19,902,485	—	—	11,570,307	83,509,429
1965.....	6,800,000	49,200,000	1,815,000	15,100,000	—	—	8,615,000	64,300,000

<sup>1</sup> Figures for 1956 include radium salts, silver, cobalt and uranium oxides; figures for 1957-65 are for uranium oxide ( $U_3O_8$ ).

**Silver.**—With recovery of silver commencing at two new base metal mines in 1965 and several other producers completing their first full year of operation, Canada's mine output at 32,964,299 oz.t. was more than 3,000,000 oz.t. greater than in 1964. Declines in production in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia and Yukon Territory were more than offset by increases in the Northwest Territories and the other provinces. Output in the Northwest Territories reached an all-time high as a result of the substantially increased production by Echo Bay Mines Limited. Canadian production in 1965 was valued at \$46,117,054, or more than \$4,000,000 higher than the previous year. Base metal ores accounted for 80 p.c. of the total, almost 19 p.c. came from silver-cobalt ores mined in northern Ontario and the remainder from lode and placer gold ores. Reported consumption of silver in Canada reached a record 30,170,097 oz.t. in 1965, mainly because of a large increase in the amount used in coinage; the latter was almost double the amount so used in 1964.

Canada's two largest producers of refined silver were: Canadian Copper Refiners Limited at Montreal East, Que., which recovered 9,600,000 oz.t. from the treatment of anode and blister copper, and Cominco Limited at its refinery at Trail, B.C., which recovered 6,400,000 oz.t. in the processing of lead and zinc ores and concentrates. The remainder of the output of refined silver was produced by Cobalt Refinery Limited in the