

World markets for platinum metals were very strong in 1965. Demand in the western world outpaced supply and the extra metal had to be purchased from the Soviet Union. Half of the world's output is produced in the Soviet Union and most of the remainder in the Republic of South Africa and Canada. An erratic pattern of sales to the western world by the Soviet Union caused a wide difference between the official platinum price of about \$100 an oz.t. and the free market price of up to \$160 an oz.t.

**Aluminum.**—As a producer of aluminum metal, Canada ranks second, after the United States, in the non-communist world. At the end of 1965 Canadian smelting capacity was 913,000 tons a year. Plants of the Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited (Alcan), located at Arvida, Alma, Shawinigan and Beauharnois in Quebec and at Kitimat in British Columbia, have a capacity of 808,000 tons; a further 24,000 tons of capacity will be completed at Kitimat in 1966. Alcan production was 728,400 tons in 1965. Canadian British Aluminium Company Limited operates a smelter at Baie Comeau, Que., having an estimated capacity of 105,000 tons a year; a plant addition and renovations will increase capacity to 175,000 tons by 1969-70. Canadian production of primary aluminum in 1965 was 840,348 tons, of which 707,512 tons were exported. Output in 1966 is expected to be about 910,000 tons. As all bauxite and alumina used by the aluminum smelters must be imported, mainly from the Caribbean area, metal production is classed in official statistical data with manufactures and not with smelter production of ores and metals of domestic origin. The export price of primary aluminum was 24.5 cents (U.S.) a pound throughout 1965 and to mid-1966. The Canadian price was 26.0 cents a pound.

**Cobalt.**—Cobalt production in 1965 was 3,798,740 lb. valued at \$8,205,278, considerably higher in both quantity and value than in the previous year. Cobalt is derived as a by-product of the smelting and refining of nickel-copper ores of Sudbury, Ont., and Lynn Lake, Man.; from nickel ores of Thompson, Man.; and from silver ores of Cobalt, Ont. International Nickel recovers cobalt from its refinery operations at Port Colborne, Ont., Thompson, Man., and Clydach, Wales. Falconbridge Nickel produces electrolytic cobalt in the refining of nickel-copper matte exported to its refinery at Kristiansand, Norway. Sherritt Gordon recovers cobalt as a by-product at its nickel refinery at Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. Cobalt Refinery Limited at Cobalt, Ont., recovers black cobalt oxide and mixed cobalt and nickel oxide from silver concentrates.

**Columbium.**—In 1965, mine production of St. Lawrence Columbium and Metals Corporation, the only Canadian producer of columbium concentrates, amounted to 2,300,000 lb. of contained  $Cb_2O_5$  in pyrochlore concentrates valued at \$2,350,000. The mine is near the town of Oka, 20 miles west of Montreal. Quebec Columbium Limited and Columbium Mining Products Limited also own large pyrochlore deposits in the Oka area. Masterloy Products Limited, Ottawa, Ont., is the only Canadian manufacturer of ferrocolumbium, which is sold in Canada and the United States.

**Magnesium.**—At the end of 1965, Dominion Magnesium Limited, the sole producer of magnesium in Canada, had a production capacity of 11,500 tons a year. The smelter at Haley, Ont., contains the largest installation of vacuum equipment in the world. The recovery process involves calcining an exceptionally pure dolomite quarried near the smelter, mixing the calcine with ferrosilicon from Beauharnois, and reducing the mixture in special retorts under vacuum at high temperature. Production was 11,133 tons in 1965. Much of the output is exported to Britain and West Germany. Canadian consumption of primary magnesium, including 1,641 tons of imports, was 4,473 tons in 1965. Free World production in 1965 was estimated at 170,500 tons.

**Molybdenum.**—Molybdenum production in 1965 amounted to 9,691,220 lb. valued at \$16,759,950. Approximately 2,200,000 lb. of the molybdenum produced was converted, by roasting, to molybdic oxide ( $MoO_3$ ), some of which was converted to ferromolybdenum; the remainder of the production was exported in molybdenite ( $MoS_2$ ) concentrates.