

Molybdenum.—Production of molybdenum in Canada in 1966 increased for the seventh consecutive year and reached a high of 20,596,000 pounds valued at \$34,671,000 compared with 9,557,000 pounds valued at \$16,731,000 in 1965. Canada's position in 1966 was second only to the United States among world producers.

Canadian production in 1966 came from eight mines, four in British Columbia and four in Quebec. The producers in British Columbia, accounting for 80 p.c. of the total Canadian output, were Endako Mines Ltd. at Endako; Brynnor Mines Limited (Boss Mountain Division), a subsidiary of Noranda Mines Limited; Red Mountain Mines Limited near Rossland; and Bethlehem Copper Corporation in the Highland Valley. The producers in Quebec were Molybdenite Corporation of Canada Limited at Lacorne; Preissac Molybdenite Mines Limited and Anglo-American Molybdenite Mining Corporation, both in Preissac Township north of Cadillac; and Gaspé Copper Mines Limited, a subsidiary of Noranda Mines, at Murdochville. Red Mountain Mines came into production in mid-1966. British Columbia Molybdenum Limited, a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Corporation, was scheduled for operation in October of 1967, thereby bringing the number of domestic producers to nine with seven of them producing molybdenum as a primary product and two—Bethlehem and Gaspé—recovering molybdenum as a by-product of copper operations.

Endako Mines in late 1966 was milling over 16,000 tons of ore a day grading about 0.24 p.c. MoS_2 ; expanded facilities will bring its concentrator capacity to 22,000 tons a day by early 1968. The company expects to maintain a minimum production of 12,000,000 pounds of molybdenum a year.

Subsection 2.—Industrial Minerals

The total value of industrial minerals produced in Canada in 1966 was a record \$837,497,000. Producers' shipments of non-metallic minerals were valued at \$363,388,000, and of clay products and other structural materials of mineral origin, at \$474,109,000. New production records were established for asbestos, barite, nepheline syenite, potash, sulphur, cement, stone, and sand and gravel; however, production of several minerals, notably gypsum, lime, salt, silica and sodium sulphate, was slightly below 1965 levels. Developments in a number of industrial minerals during 1966 are reviewed below.

Asbestos.—Asbestos production continued its generally upward trend in 1966 when output reached a new high at 1,489,000 tons valued at \$163,655,000, an increase of 7.3 p.c. in output and 11.9 p.c. in value over 1965. Quebec annually accounts for about 90 p.c. of the domestic production and British Columbia, Newfoundland and Ontario for the remainder. Most of the Canadian production is exported, mainly as milled fibre and shorts, to the United States, West Germany, Britain, Japan and other non-communist countries. Canada now provides about 40 p.c. of the world's production of asbestos fibre.

Favourable world demand for fibre has resulted in increased exploration, development and expansion of facilities both in Canada and elsewhere. Projected production at the \$21,000,000 Clinton Creek property of Cassiar Asbestos Corporation in the Yukon Territory, beginning in 1968 at 60,000 tons of fibre per annum, is expected to increase to 80,000 tons by 1970; asbestos-cement grades of fibre will be the main product. Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd. plans to bring into production in 1968 its deposit in Reeves Township, 40 miles southwest of Timmins, Ont., which will have a capacity of 25,000 tons of fibre a year. Production in Ontario during 1966 was derived from Hedman Mines Ltd. near Matheson, where a pilot plant was in operation providing fibre for appraisal and market development. Asbestos Corporation Ltd., in April 1967, announced the suspension of development work at Asbestos Hill in the Ungava area of northern Quebec because of a large increase in costs from the original estimate of \$66,300,000 to the present estimate of \$84,800,000. This deposit, located 40 miles south of Deception Bay, has reserves in excess of 20,000,000 tons.