

and fuels 5%. Nickel contributed 74% and copper 21% of the total metallics value of \$284 million.

The rapid rise of mining capacity in Manitoba over the last few years is attributable mainly to recent expansions at the nickel-copper mines of Inco at Thompson. Falconbridge also started its Manibridge mine and mill at Wabowden during the year. However, producers suffered from the world over-supply situation for nickel and 1971 saw substantial additions to inventories and some production cutbacks. Manitoba nickel production in 1971 was 77,000 tons, one quarter of the total Canadian output. Zinc produced in Manitoba was valued at \$8.4 million in 1971, substantially below the level of previous years because of a five-month strike at the Flin Flon and Snow Lake operations of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

**Saskatchewan.** Saskatchewan's mineral production, of course, reflects the limitations imposed by its geography. In contrast to the more easterly provinces, the Canadian Shield formation comprises much less than one half of Saskatchewan's area, nor does Saskatchewan have the Cordillera and related resources of the more westerly provinces. Saskatchewan, therefore, is mainly a non-metallic minerals producer, supplying principally oil, natural gas and potash; zinc, copper and uranium are of useful but minor annual output value. Oil output is stable, and uranium output continues to decline, but the restoration of order in potash markets through regulation of supply in both Saskatchewan and New Mexico has raised revenues substantially for that product.

The value of total mineral output in Saskatchewan in 1971 was \$409 million, a \$30 million increase over 1970 attributable to price increases in potash and increased petroleum output. The broad picture in the province for the past few years has been one of stable annual value of output. Of the total 1971 output, the fuels class contributed 58%, non-metallics (almost all potash) 36% and metallics about 4%.

**Alberta.** Alberta is Canada's major oil producer as reflected in the steady increase of its share of the national output which has climbed from 69% in 1967 to 75% in 1971. Production could be even greater since the developed fields are now being operated below capacity. At present production rates, proven economic reserves of oil total about 20 years' supply. Current exploration in Alberta is at a moderate level with new field exploration awaiting the outcome of economic and environmental studies on new sources of oil above the Arctic Circle.

Alberta's total minerals output in 1971 was valued at \$1,640 million of which fuels accounted for \$1,575 million; one third of the remainder was fuel by-product sulphur and two thirds was structural materials — mainly cement, sand and gravel — valued at \$42 million. Crude petroleum production amounted to 372,000,000 bbl, 10% higher than in 1970. Net new production of natural gas in Alberta in 1971 totalled 2,067,000 MMcf compared with 1,870,000 MMcf a year earlier, reflecting continuing strong demand for gas in the mid-continental United States.

Alberta's southwest produces useful amounts of coal, the value of the 1971 output being \$42.4 million compared with about \$28 million in 1970 and \$12 million in 1967 and 1968. The rise in coal production in Alberta is due mainly to increasing demand from Japanese industry.

**British Columbia.** Total minerals output in British Columbia in 1971 was almost \$544 million compared with \$490 million in 1970 and \$434 million in 1969; the average annual growth in the 1968-71 period was 13%. The range of products is very wide; 57% is provided by metallics, 28% by fuels, 11% by structural materials and 4% by other non-metallics. Copper is especially significant, comprising over one fourth of the total output value of minerals. Other valuable metallics are, in order of importance, zinc, molybdenum, lead, iron ore and silver. Even a little tin is produced, as concentrate, when world prices are high. Non-metallic minerals include asbestos and sulphur; crude oil, natural gas and coal are produced in considerable amounts.

Copper production has climbed rapidly; the 140,000-ton output in 1971 represented a 33% increase over that of 1970; copper revenues were up almost 21%. In 1971, molybdenum production decreased by almost one third in volume as compared with 1970 output levels to 11,000 tons (contained molybdenum basis) of concentrate. The coal mines developed over the past few years recorded a sharp increase in value of production to \$45 million in 1971 as against \$26 million in 1970. British Columbia coal is almost all high-unit-price bituminous coal of coking quality. The enlarged production of 1971, as well as anticipated future expansion, is to meet Japanese requirements.