

its operations from about August 15 to October 24 because of very low demand from its United States parent, Inland Steel Company, which takes the entire output. As a result, shipments were down by 672,000 tons to 1,471,000 tons comprising 859,000 tons of pellets and 612,000 tons of Warren Coarse sized ore. The other producer in the Atikokan area, Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited, operated above rated capacity and some 1,416,000 tons of pellets were shipped. For the first time since the mine began production in 1944 no "red ore" or direct-shipping ore was included. Underground mining resumed in 1970 on an experimental basis to tap known resources beneath the open pits and was continued in 1971.

At other Ontario iron mines, operations in 1971 were either at or slightly below capacity production rates. The Adams Mine, purchased on July 31, 1971 by Dominion Foundries and Steel, Limited (Dofasco) from the United States iron and steel producer, Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, shipped 1,036,000 tons of which 877,000 tons were exports and 159,000 tons were domestic shipments. This property is operated by Cliffs of Canada Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, and managing agent of Dofasco's Sherman mine. The acquisition, together with Dofasco's majority interests in the Sherman mine and Wabush Mines, provides the company with its entire requirements of iron ore from Canadian sources. The Griffith mine, which installed fine screening to improve quality and throughput in 1971, shipped some 1,364,000 tons, down fractionally from 1970, while the Sherman mine shipped, all-rail, 1,026,000 tons to Dofasco. Both Marmoraton Mining Company Division of Bethlehem Chile Iron Mines Company and National Steel Corporation of Canada, Limited operated at capacity and shipped 474,000 tons and 681,000 tons, respectively, all to the United States.

The two by-product producers in the Sudbury area of Ontario, The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited and Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, shipped 796,000 tons and 82,000 tons, both up slightly from 1970. Falconbridge's 300,000-ton-per-year reduced iron ore plant began tune-up operations in early 1971, but at year-end was still encountering new-process difficulties.

In British Columbia, both Wesfrob Mines Limited and Texada Mines Ltd. operated at capacity, and 1,255,000 tons and 512,000 tons, respectively, were shipped. With the larger of its two furnaces out of operation during most of the year, Cominco Ltd. consumed only 45,000 tons of iron oxide sinter in the production of pig iron compared with 146,000 tons in 1970.

Exports during 1971 totalled 33,562,557 tons compared with 38,646,041 tons in 1970. The largest market, the United States, took 20,223,000 tons (compared with 23,426,000 tons in 1970) followed by the European Coal and Steel Community with 5,069,000 tons (6,906,000 tons) and Britain with 4,531,000 tons (5,566,000 tons). Shipments to France, which began in 1969, were down slightly from 1970 to 196,000 tons while those to Spain, which became an importer of Canadian iron ore for the first time in 1970, rose sharply from 129,000 tons to 424,000 tons. Exports to Japan were up by 1,047,000 tons to 3,084,000 tons and reflected the increasing importance of Japanese shipments to the eastern producers — Iron Ore Company of Canada and Quebec Cartier Mining Company. The west coast producers, Wesfrob Mines Limited and Texada Mines Ltd., continued to ship all their output to Japan except for a small amount (122,000 tons in 1971) that went to the iron ore reduction plant of Midland-Ross Corp. in Oregon.

The trend toward lower imports accelerated in 1971 as they declined 764,000 tons to 1,362,000 tons, a new low in modern times. The United States provided the bulk of imports in 1971 with 1,272,000 tons all consigned to three integrated iron and steel producers in Ontario. Most of this tonnage went to The Steel Company of Canada, Limited through its 10% interest in The Erie Mining Company, a 10,300,000 ton-per-year pellet producer in Minnesota. Small tonnages of merchant ore are usually shipped to the three producers either for slagging purposes or to cover shortfalls in supply. The Algoma Steel Corporation, Limited has usually been a net exporter of iron ore while Dominion Foundries and Steel, Limited after its purchase of the Adams Mine in 1971 is now self-sufficient. Some 70,000 tons of Brazilian ore went to Sydney Steel Corporation in Nova Scotia but Labrador - Quebec ores have largely supplanted foreign ores in this market.

The level of imports is expected to remain at or below 1,400,000 tons per year until 1974 when a rise to at least 3,000,000 tons is anticipated. The Algoma Steel Corporation, Limited and The Steel Company of Canada, Limited will participate in a joint venture with The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company and others in the development of the Tilden mine, a