

molybdenum in concentrate. Noranda Mines Limited, on December 3, 1971, closed the mine of Boss Mountain Division of Brynnor Mines Limited in the Cariboo district of central British Columbia. The closure was due to reduced demand for molybdenum in overseas markets and the large stocks of molybdenum in concentrates already accumulated. Boss Mountain production in 1971 was 2,010,000 lb. of molybdenum in concentrates; ore reserves above the adit level at the end of 1971 were 2,700,000 tons grading 0.25% molybdenum. British Columbia Molybdenum Limited, a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Corporation, produced 5,100,000 lb. of molybdenum in concentrates. The company's 6,000-ton-per-day mine and concentrator near Alice Arm, operated below capacity due to lack of sales. Utah International Inc. started operation at its Island Copper Mine near Port Hardy on Vancouver Island in October 1971. Design capacity was 33,000 tons per day and annual output was projected at 53,000 tons of copper and 1,900,000 lb. of molybdenum in concentrates. Ore reserves were estimated at 280,000,000 tons averaging 0.52% copper and 0.029% molybdenum.

Lornex Mining Corporation Ltd., managed by Rio Algom Mines Limited, prepared to start production in the first half of 1972 at its large copper-molybdenum property some 33 miles south of Ashcroft in the Highland Valley of British Columbia. The orebody was estimated to contain 293,000,000 tons averaging 0.427% copper and 0.014% molybdenum. Annual production rate was expected to be about 54,000 tons of copper and 3,000,000 lb. of molybdenum. Placer Development Limited continued to develop the property of Gibraltar Mines Ltd., about 35 miles north of Williams Lake in the Cariboo district of British Columbia, for production by mid-1972. The new mine and crushing and concentrating plant have a design capacity of 30,000 tons of ore per day. Ore reserves were estimated at 358,000,000 tons averaging 0.373% copper and 0.016% molybdenite ( $\text{MoS}_2$ ). Several other companies with molybdenum and copper-molybdenum properties in British Columbia examined production possibilities and conducted feasibility studies with a view toward mine financing and development for production.

In eastern Canada, Molybdenite Corporation of Canada Limited continued operation of its mine and concentrator near Lacorne, Que., with provincial government assistance beginning about September 1971. Preissac Molybdenite Mines Limited in the Preissac area, near Cadillac, continued production at a reduced rate for a short period after bankruptcy proceedings were instituted in April. Molybdenum production in eastern Canada, including by-product output at Gaspé Copper Mines, Limited, was 778,003 lb. in 1971.

**Uranium.** Uranium remained in an over-supply situation in world markets during 1971 as continued overproduction and intense competition combined to force uranium prices to an all-time low. Despite increased sales efforts on the part of Canadian producers, not a single Canadian sale was announced. Not surprisingly, there was a general decline in exploration in Canada during 1971 mainly because of the prevailing poor short-term outlook for uranium and continuing problems respecting foreign ownership of uranium-producing companies in Canada. Of the three Canadian mills operating in 1971 only one was operating at full capacity. A new producer is scheduled to come on stream in 1975.

Denison Mines Limited of Elliot Lake, Ont. began deliveries of uranium in mid-1971 under the new joint-venture stockpiling agreement announced in December 1970 by the federal government. The agreement, to cover the period from 1971 to 1974, will help to assure a stable economy in the Elliot Lake community until major deliveries under Denison's long-term contracts begin in 1975.

Canadian uranium production rose by almost 9% in 1971 to 4,976 tons of  $\text{U}_3\text{O}_8$  of which 4,107 tons were shipped (Table 12.14). Some 85% of this quantity came from the Elliot Lake area of Ontario with the remainder from the Uranium City area of Saskatchewan. At Elliot Lake, Rio Algom Mines Limited operated its Quirke mill at slightly in excess of its nominal 4,500 ton capacity with most of the total 1,564,000 tons of ore feed coming from the New Quirke mine which opened in 1968. Output from New Quirke has been gradually increased so that by the end of 1971 it was operating at some 6,200 tons a day, well in excess of its original design capacity. Ore reserves at the old Quirke mine were depleted at year-end. Denison's mill, operating at about two thirds of its nominal 6,000-ton-a-day capacity in 1971, treated about 1,387,000 tons of ore. The company continued its program of underground and surface improvements during the year. At Uranium City, Eldorado Nuclear Limited completed the third year of its planned five-year program of reduced production. The 1,800-ton-per-day mill