

August 9; output was 2,597,667 lb. of Cb_2O_5 during the company's fiscal year ended September 30, 1971 compared with 4,886,957 lb. in the 12 months of the prior fiscal year. Demand for columbium declined in the latter part of 1970 and during 1971. Contract rates for Canadian pyrochlore, f.o.b. mine site, were \$1.15 - \$1.20 per lb. of Cb_2O_5 throughout the year.

Canada's tantalum pentoxide (Ta_2O_5) production in concentrates in 1971 was 449,610 lb. valued at \$2,901,293 compared with 317,024 lb. valued at \$2,251,182 in 1970. Canada's commercial production of tantalum began in 1969 at the Bernic Lake, Man., mine of Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada, an operating subsidiary of Chemalloy Minerals Limited. This producer was the principal United States supplier in 1970 and 1971, furnishing about 46% of that country's imports; the Republic of Zaïre and Brazil were also major suppliers.

The demand for tantalum declined in 1971 with the temporary recession in the electronics industry. Tantalite ore at the beginning of the year was \$6.75 - \$7.50 per lb. of Ta_2O_5 , 60% basis, c.i.f. US ports, and at year-end the price was \$6.25 - \$6.75 per lb.

Tungsten. Shipments of tungsten in 1971 were 4,624,208 lb. in scheelite ($CaWO_4$) concentrates compared with 3,726,800 lb. in 1970. Canada Tungsten Mining Corporation Limited produced 2,608,030 lb. of tungsten in concentrates from its mine at Tungsten in the Northwest Territories, about 135 miles north of Watson Lake. Canex Tungsten Division of Placer Development Limited produced 1,364,291 lb. of tungsten in concentrates from its operations near Salmo, east of Trail, in southeastern British Columbia. The 500-ton-per-day capacity Canex mill and concentrator started operation in October 1970.

Cadmium. Cadmium output in 1971, expressed as the sum of refined metal and the recoverable cadmium content of exported zinc concentrates, was 4,063,805 lb. valued at \$7,883,782; corresponding figures for 1970 were 4,307,953 lb. and \$15,336,313. The decrease of almost 49% in value of output was due to much lower prices prevailing in 1971. Cadmium is recovered as a by-product during the smelting and refining of zinc ores and concentrates. Most of the zinc ores in Canada carry minor quantities of the metal, varying from 0.001 to 0.067% of recoverable cadmium, and zinc concentrates contain up to 0.7% cadmium. The largest mine production comes from the Kidd Creek mine near Timmins, Ont., followed by Pine Point Mines Limited in the Northwest Territories, Cominco Ltd. in British Columbia, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and the Noranda group of companies in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Refined cadmium is produced at the electrolytic plants of Cominco at Trail, BC, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting at Flin Flon, Man., and Canadian Electrolytic Zinc Limited at Valleyfield, Que. Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited, which also recovered cadmium, converted its ISF smelter into a lead blast furnace late in 1971 and from that time exported all its cadmium-bearing zinc concentrates for treatment at foreign smelters.

Selenium and tellurium. The value of the 719,000 lb. of selenium produced in 1971 was \$6,531,000, slightly higher than in 1970. Tellurium output decreased sharply to 24,000 lb. valued at \$148,000. These metals are recovered from the anode muds resulting from electrolytic refining of copper anodes at the plants of Canadian Copper Refiners Limited at Montreal East, Que., and The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited at Copper Cliff, Ont.

Magnesium. The only Canadian producer of primary magnesium is Chromasco Corporation Limited (formerly Dominion Magnesium Limited). Its mine and smelter are at Haley, Ont.; smelting capacity is 12,000 tons annually. Production in 1971 was 7,234 tons, valued at \$5,163,921 and has been declining since 1969 when 10,485 tons were produced. Exports of magnesium metal fell drastically, being only 2,917 tons in 1971 compared with 7,669 tons in 1970. Imports in 1971 were 1,827 tons. Canadian consumption rose to 6,276 tons in 1971 from 4,937 tons the previous year. Total world production in 1971 was estimated at 253,700 tons.

12.1.3 Industrial minerals

Asbestos. In 1971, 1,634,579 tons of asbestos were produced in Canada, 27,065 tons less than in 1970. The value of output decreased about 2% to \$203,999,244, compared with an approximate increase of 9% in the previous year (Table 12.15). Quebec accounts for about 82% of the Canadian production and Newfoundland, Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory for the remainder. Most of the Canadian production was exported as milled fibre and shorts, providing about 60% of total world exports and about 40% of total world