

production. The United States, Britain, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany together absorbed about 62% of the exports from Canada.

The world outlook for asbestos consumption is favourable and emphasis continues to be placed on the completion of new Canadian projects. In Quebec near Deception Bay, Ungava, development continued at the Asbestos Hill property owned by Asbestos Corporation Limited. An annual output of about 300,000 tons of ungraded fibre will be shipped to Nordenham, West Germany. Asbestos Corporation continued development of the Penhale orebody adjacent to the Normandie mine at Black Lake. Canadian Johns-Manville Company Limited proceeded with a relocation and reconstruction program that will maintain annual output at a minimum of 600,000 tons of fibre. Carey-Canadian Mines Ltd., East Broughton, was involved with plant expansion that will raise mill capacity from 4,500 to 5,500 tons per day. Bell Asbestos Mines, Ltd., Thetford Mines, continued work on a long-range modernization program. Abitibi Asbestos Mining Company Limited arranged senior financing and management agreements with Brinco Limited to manage a pilot-plant study at the asbestos property situated in Maizerets Township, 50 miles north of Amos. McAdam Mining Corporation Limited arranged with Rio Tinto Canadian Exploration Limited to further evaluate its property. In Ontario, Allied Mining Corporation continued evaluation of its property situated 43 miles south of Timmins.

In British Columbia, Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited completed expansion of its mill, which now has a capacity of 120,000 tons of fibre per year. At the Clinton Creek mine, Yukon Territory, additional mill equipment was installed to increase output eventually to about 120,000 tons of fibre per year. Newfoundland's sole producer, Advocate Mines Limited, increased production by about 10% in 1971. Ontario's asbestos production increased in 1971 by about 13% as a result of the combined increase in output from the Reeves mine of Johns-Manville Mining and Trading Limited and from the Matheson mine of Hedman Mines Limited.

Potash. Canada's potash industry is centred in Saskatchewan where production started in 1962 and development was so rapid that in 1971 there were ten mines in operation with a combined annual production capacity of 13,680,000 tons of potassium chloride (KCl) (Table 12.16). Canada has the world's largest production capacity but this rapid development, coupled with a downturn in fertilizer sales, has resulted in a world over-supply of potash. Canada consumes only about 7% of its production, the remainder being exported, principally to the United States.

The world over-supply of potash created serious marketing problems in 1969. In an attempt to at least partly rationalize the market and to prevent mine closures, Saskatchewan promulgated the Potash Conservation Regulations, effective January 1, 1970. Under the regulations, production at each mine is allocated according to plant capacity to meet total market requirements; the industry's operating rate in 1971 averaged 47.8% of capacity. Prices were also regulated under the provincial regulations at not less than 33.75 cents (Cdn.) per unit of K₂O equivalent.

Salt. Salt production in Canada in 1971 totalled 5,541,901 tons (Table 12.17), about two thirds being mined rock salt primarily for snow and ice control on streets and highways and for chemical manufacture, and the remainder fine vacuum salt and salt as brine for use in producing caustic soda and chlorine. There are three rock salt mines, one in Nova Scotia and two in southwestern Ontario; fine salt evaporator plants and brining operations are located in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Most of British Columbia's salt needs are met by imports of solar salt from Mexico and the San Francisco Bay area.

Sulphur. Canadian production of elemental sulphur in 1971 was 3,149,280 tons valued at \$21,299,520 (Table 12.18); sulphur production in all forms, including sulphur recovered from smelter gases and contained in pyrites, amounted to 3,895,000 tons valued at \$27,063,000. Most of the sulphur produced is extracted as elemental sulphur from sour natural gas in western Canada. Canada is the world's largest producer of sulphur from hydrocarbon sources and is the world's largest exporter. Exports in 1971 decreased 15% below 1970 to 2,647,893 tons. Because of world over-supply and an extremely competitive market situation, the downward trend in prices which began in early 1969 continued throughout 1971, reaching an all-time low of \$5.47 and an average for the year of \$7.22 a ton. Value of elemental sulphur exports decreased accordingly some 30% to \$27,132,000.