

Cobalt. Canadian production of cobalt in 1972 amounted to 3.4 million lb. valued at \$8.3 million, decreases of 22.5% in volume and 11.8% in value compared to the previous year. Cobalt is recovered as a by-product of nickel-copper ores and to a lesser extent from silver-cobalt ores.

Canada's leading producer, The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO), recovers cobalt in the form of crude oxide at its nickel refineries at Port Colborne, Ont. and Thompson, Man. Cobalt oxide and salts are also recovered at INCO's nickel refinery at Clydach, Wales. INCO curtailed production because of large nickel stocks, a factor in lower Canadian production of cobalt in 1972. Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited ships nickel-copper matte from its mine at Falconbridge, Ont. to Kristiansand, Norway for refining. A fire in the cobalt section of the Norwegian refinery forced Falconbridge to stockpile unrefined cobalt during 1972. Sherritt Gordon Mines, Limited recovers cobalt at its hydro-metallurgical refinery at Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. Sherritt Gordon processes concentrate from its nickel-copper mine at Lynn Lake, Man., but most of the cobalt produced is recovered from nickel-copper concentrates purchased from mines in Australia and New Caledonia. Giant Mascot Mines Limited, British Columbia's only mine producer of by-product cobalt, shipped concentrates to Fort Saskatchewan for refining.

Cobalt supply is expected to be more than adequate to meet demand over the next few years.

Columbium (niobium) and tantalum. Canadian production of columbium as columbium pentoxide (Cb_2O_5) was 3.9 million lb. valued at \$3.9 million in 1972 compared with 2.3 million lb. valued at \$2.3 million in 1971.

St. Lawrence Columbium and Metals Corporation, with a mine, mill and concentrator near Oka, Que., is Canada's only producer of columbium and has one of only two mines in the world that produce columbium in pyrochlore concentrates as a primary product; the other larger operation is near Araxa, Brazil.

A strike lasting one month reduced production at St. Lawrence in 1972. Copperfields Mining Corporation and Quebec Mining Exploration Company (SOQUEM) continued development of the St-Honoré columbium pyrochlore deposit some seven miles north of Chicoutimi, Que. The company reported that pilot plant testing of bulk samples, completed during 1972 by the Department of Mines, indicated that the quality of columbium oxide concentrates produced is at least equal to that of existing producers. A feasibility study, including mine planning and plant design, is in preparation.

Shipments of tantalum pentoxide (Ta_2O_5) in 1972 were 41,120 lb. valued at \$246,658, substantially below the 1971 levels. The United States, which represents 75% of Canada's tantalum export market, released 487,000 lb. of tantalum contained in tantalum and columbium pentoxides from its stockpile of strategic materials; combined with customer's accumulated stocks of tantalum concentrates and tantalum metal this action seriously reduced shipments in 1972.

Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada Limited (TANCO) at Bernic Lake, Man. was Canada's sole producer. Because of a weak world market for tantalum concentrates, TANCO stockpiled most of its 1972 production in anticipation of firmer market conditions with improved prices.

Tungsten. Canadian production (shipments) was 4.4 million lb. of tungsten trioxide (WO_3) in scheelite concentrates in 1972, compared with 4.6 million lb. in 1971. Mine production came from two producers: Canada Tungsten Mining Corporation Limited's mine, mill and concentrator at Tungsten in the Northwest Territories, about 135 miles north of Watson Lake, and Canex Placer Limited's mine, mill and concentrator near Salmo in southeastern British Columbia. Canex, which commenced production of tungsten concentrates in October 1970, ceased operations in September because of depleted reserves of tungsten ore.

Amax Exploration, Inc., a subsidiary of American Metal Climax, Inc., identified a scheelite deposit in the Yukon, 240 miles northeast of Whitehorse. Over 30 million tons with an average grade of 0.9% tungsten trioxide have been indicated. Additional drilling and bulk sampling are necessary before the mineralization is fully outlined and tonnage and grade can be more accurately estimated.

Cadmium. Cadmium production in 1972 was 4.3 million lb. valued at \$11.0 million compared