

Denison amalgamated with Stanrock Uranium Mines Limited, which produced uranium from an adjoining property until 1970. An exploration drive was begun in 1973 which will link the two properties and provide an additional airway to the surface. In addition a 25-ft diameter, 1,750-ft ventilation air intake was being raised to Roman Island in Quirke Lake.

In August 1973 Uranium Canada, Limited (UCAN) and Denison announced that 1,000 tons of uranium oxide would be delivered to Tohoku Electric Power Company Inc. from the Denison-UCAN stockpile and from the general government stockpile over the period 1977 to 1981. Late in the year Denison announced that agreement had been reached in principle with the Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc. (TEPCO) for the supply of 40 million lb. of uranium oxide over the period 1984 to 1993. Gulf Minerals Canada Limited announced that it was nearing completion of a contract covering a Japanese utility's requirements in the period 1978 to 1980.

Canadian uranium commitments, made since 1966 to both domestic and export markets totalled over 78,000 tons of uranium oxide by the end of 1973; of this total some 13,000 tons had been delivered leaving a forward commitment of over 65,000 tons (not including the TEPCO-Denison Agreement, announced in December), about 90% of which is destined for export, primarily to Western Europe and Japan. By year-end, Canadian producers were reporting a dramatic increase in numbers of inquiries from potential customers and indications were that negotiations were under way with utilities in a number of countries.

No significant increase in production is expected until 1975 when capacity will reach about 8,500 tons of uranium oxide a year, with the completion of Gulf's Rabbit Lake project and Denison's expansion. Canada does have some additional productive capability based on known lower-cost reserves, but realization of production levels much beyond 14,000 tons a year will be contingent on the discovery of new reserves.

Molybdenum. Canadian shipments of molybdenum in 1973 amounted to 30.4 million lb. valued at \$51.8 million. Shipments increased 7% in volume and 17.7% in value compared to the previous year. Canada remained the second largest producer in the world (excluding the Sino-Soviet bloc) with 18% of world production.

Before 1969 production of molybdenum as a co-product or by-product from large tonnage, low-grade copper-molybdenum deposits in Canada was not significant. The opening of large copper deposits in which molybdenum is a secondary mineral have increased the proportion of molybdenum so recovered to approximately one half of the total Canadian production.

Quebec produced a small amount of molybdenum in 1973. Gaspé Copper Mines, Limited produced 277,000 lb. of molybdenum in concentrate as a by-product of its copper operation.

In British Columbia, Brenda Mines Ltd., near Kelowna, produced 8.2 million lb. of by-product molybdenum. Endako Mines Division of Canex Placer Limited at Endako, is the largest primary molybdenum producer in Canada. Mine production in 1973 was 11.9 million lb. consisting of 8.5 million lb. of molybdenum in oxide and 3.4 million lb. in concentrate. About half of the production is exported to Europe and 35% to Japan. Lornex Mining Corporation Ltd. near Ashcroft reached its design capacity during the year and production was 3.5 million lb. of molybdenum in concentrates. Utah Mines Ltd. near Port Hardy produced 1.1 million lb. of by-product molybdenum in its second full year of operation. Gibraltar Mines Ltd. in the Cariboo District completed its first full-production year. Production was 0.46 million lb. of molybdenum recovered from molybdenum-copper ores. At the end of May, KRC Operators, a subsidiary of King Resources Company, closed its mine and mill operations at its Mt. Copeland property, near Revelstoke, BC. During its life, the mine produced 2.65 million lb. of molybdenum. Noranda Mines, Limited reopened its Boss Mountain mine in British Columbia; mill start-up commenced in December 1973 and full-scale production at an annual rate of 2.5 million lb. of molybdenum was expected to commence in early 1974. Canadian molybdenum roasting capacity in 1973 was estimated at 30 million lb. of molybdenum.

Platinum group metals. Production of platinum group metals in 1973 was 354,223 oz t valued at \$41,993,743 compared with 406,048 oz t in 1972 valued at \$34,656,545. A change in the recovery process at one of the producers resulted in a build-up of platinum metals in its circuits and was responsible for production volume being below what might have been anticipated. The price of most of the platinum metals increased substantially in 1973. Canada produces platinum metals as a by-product of nickel refining. When nickel matte is electrolytically