of potassium dioxide equivalent. Production allowables set by the Saskatchewan government under the prorationing plan were raised three times during 1973 because of strong demand. As of October 1, 1973, the prorationing fee was raised from 60 cents a ton of potash to $1.20.

In New Brunswick, an exploratory drill hole intersected salt and potash near Salt Springs about 12 miles southwest of Sussex. In the Sussex area, the Potash Company of America is pursuing its exploration program.

Transportation bottlenecks hampered potash deliveries in 1973.

Salt. Salt production in Canada in 1973 increased only 2.7% from the previous year. Canadian shipments of salt amounted to 5.6 million tons valued at $49.6 million (Table 12.19). About 75% of total shipments were rock salt that is used for snow and ice control on city streets and highways and for chemical manufacturing. The remainder is fine vacuum salt and salt as brine that is used for producing caustic soda and chlorine.

There are three rock salt mines, one in Nova Scotia and two in Ontario. Salt is also produced as a by-product of potash mining in Saskatchewan. Fine salt evaporator plants and brining operations are located in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A joint federal-provincial exploration program discovered a potash-salt deposit in Kings County, NB, in 1971. In 1973 a second federal-provincial program resulted in a similar discovery at Salt Springs in the same county. In August 1972 Quebec Mining Exploration Company (SOQUEM) announced discovery of a large salt deposit in the Magdalen Islands, 50 miles north of Prince Edward Island.

Sulphur. Canadian sulphur shipments in all forms in 1973 amounted to 5.4 million tons valued at $34.1 million (Table 12.20). Shipments increased 23% in volume and 35% in value compared to the previous year.

Canadian sulphur is obtained from three sources: sour natural gas and petroleum, which produce elemental sulphur, smelter gases which produce sulphuric acid, and pyrite concentrates which are used in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Small amounts of elemental sulphur are recovered as a by-product of electrolytic refining of nickel sulphide matte and a small quantity of liquid sulphur dioxide is produced from pyrites and smelter gases. Eighty-four percent of Canadian sulphur shipments in 1973 were in elemental form, nearly all from sour natural gas in western Canada.

Dramatic growth over the last 10 years in the Canadian sulphur industry is due almost entirely to expanded exploitation and treatment of sour natural gas, principally in Alberta. Canadian production of sulphur in all forms in 1960 was 1 million long tons, with elemental sulphur making up only one quarter of the total. In 1973 total sulphur production was estimated at 7.97 million long tons, 7.3 million tons in elemental form. Since 1968 Canada has been the world's largest supplier of elemental sulphur.

Gypsum. In 1973 Canadian production of crude gypsum increased to 8.4 million tons (Table 12.21), 75% of which was exported to the US. Exports were mainly from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland quarries although some tonnage was shipped into the northwestern US from British Columbia.

Nine companies produced crude gypsum in Canada in 1973 at 15 locations, while five companies manufactured gypsum products at 17 locations. Production of gypsum in Canada is closely related to the building construction industry, particularly the residential building sector, in both Canada and the eastern United States.

Nepheline syenite. Nepheline syenite was produced from two operations on Blue Mountain, 25 miles northeast of Peterborough, Ont. In 1973 shipments were 569,000 tons, an increase of 2% over 1972 (Table 12.22). The value of shipments in 1973 increased 33% to $7.9 million, with exports accounting for 78% of the total shipments. Sales to the US representing 98% of Canada's total exports, increased 5%. Nepheline syenite is preferred to feldspar as a source of essential alumina and alkalis in glass manufacture. Other uses include the manufacture of ceramics, enamels and as a filler in paints, papers, plastics and foam rubber.

Structural materials. The value of all construction undertaken in Canada in 1973 was roughly $20.1 billion. Shipments of structural materials, including cement, sand and gravel, stone, clay and clay products and lime, were roughly $673.1 million or 8.0% of Canada's total value of mineral production.