

produced 26.4% of Canada's nickel, an increase of 3.6% over the total value for the previous year. The value of zinc production increased 14.0% over 1974.

Saskatchewan produces mainly mineral fuels and non-metals because the metal-rich geological formations of eastern Canada and the Rockies do not dominate the geology in Saskatchewan. Crude petroleum and potash represented 47.2% and 42.0% of the 1975 mineral production. Metallics constituted only 2.2% of the total. Renewed interest in uranium may result in increased production in the metals sector.

Alberta. Mineral production was valued at \$6,000.8 million in 1975 with crude petroleum, natural gas and natural gas by-products representing 94.0% of the total. Sulphur, produced as a by-product in the processing of natural gas, represented 1.5% of the mineral production. Alberta produced 86.1% of Canada's petroleum and 94.8% of Canada's natural gas in 1975. Coal production accounted for 3.1% of provincial mineral production. Structural materials made up most of the remainder.

British Columbia. Mineral output increased 5.9% to \$1,223.9 million in 1975. Metallics comprised 48.1% and mineral fuels 41.4% of all mineral production with copper, zinc, molybdenum and lead accounting for 27.7%, 6.7%, 5.5% and 2.5%, respectively, of the total. Coal, crude petroleum and natural gas represented 26.7%, 7.7% and 5.7% of the total production, respectively. Production of copper in all forms was down sharply with mine production value decreasing 31.0% from the previous year. Coal production increased to 10.5 million tons (9.5 million t) in 1975. Asbestos was the leading non-metallic mineral produced.

Northwest Territories. The value of mineral production in 1975 decreased to \$189.5 million from \$223.1 million in 1974. Metallic minerals accounted for almost all of the total. Zinc, lead, gold and silver comprised 58.1%, 16.3%, 16.2% and 5.2%, respectively, of the total mineral output. Crude oil and natural gas are of considerable potential value.

Yukon Territory. The value of production increased to \$228.9 million compared to \$171.5 million in 1974. Zinc, lead, silver, copper and asbestos made up 41.6%, 24.6%, 12.9%, 5.1% and 14.0%, respectively. Output is not large by national standards but is increasing rapidly.

Metals

12.1.2

Nickel. Canadian production of nickel in 1975 amounted to 269,826 tons (244 782 t) valued at \$1.11 billion. World production of nickel decreased 3.9%; Canadian production decreased 9.1% because of labour strikes and cutbacks in production. Consumption of nickel in the non-communist world was about 410,000 tons (372 000 t) compared with about 552,000 tons (501 000 t) in 1974, one of the sharpest declines in the history of the industry. Producers' stocks had risen to about three times normal at the end of the year.

At Sudbury, Ont., The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO) began work on the development of a new mine, Levack East, where production is expected to begin in 1984. In Manitoba, work continued on deepening the Birchtree mine and on underground exploration at the Pipe mine. INCO announced plans to build a plant in the Sudbury district for the direct rolling of metal powders to manufacture coinage strip. The plant was scheduled to be in operation in the second half of 1977.

Six companies mined nickel ores in Canada during 1975. Falconbridge, the second largest producer, continued development work at the Lockerby mine which is scheduled to be producing at capacity in 1978. The Thierry deposit, near Pickle Crow, Ont., of Union Minière Explorations and Mining Company Limited, was being prepared for production. This new mine was scheduled to start production in 1976.