

In 1975 refined silver was produced at five Canadian primary silver refineries, the largest being Canadian Copper Refiners Limited at Montreal East, Que. It recovered 19.8 million oz t (616 000 kg) from the treatment of anode and blister copper. The silver refinery of Cominco Ltd. at Trail, BC, was the second-largest producer, recovering some 8.8 million oz t (274 000 kg) of by-product silver in the processing of lead and zinc ores and concentrates. Other producers of refined silver were The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO) at Copper Cliff, Ont. (from nickel-copper concentrates) and the Royal Canadian Mint at Ottawa, Ont. (from gold bullion). At Belledune, NB, Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited, Smelting Division, recovered by-product silver bullion from lead concentrates treated in a blast furnace.

Molybdenum. Canadian shipments of molybdenum in 1975 were 27.4 million lb. (12.4 million kg) valued at \$68.9 million. Over 95% of Canadian molybdenum is produced in British Columbia; Quebec is the only other producing province. Canada is the second largest producer in the world, accounting for some 16% of world production.

Prior to 1969, most molybdenum in Canada was produced from primary sources. Since 1969, molybdenum produced as a by-product or as a co-product with copper from large low-grade copper-molybdenum deposits in British Columbia has become an increasingly important source of production. In 1975, by-product and co-product molybdenum accounted for approximately 45% of Canadian production.

There are two primary producers of molybdenum in Canada — Endako Mines Division of Canex Placer Limited and Brynnor Mines Limited — both in British Columbia. Endako is the largest molybdenum producer accounting for approximately one half of Canada's production. Molybdenum is recovered as a by-product or co-product of copper at four mines in British Columbia (Brenda Mines Limited, Lornex Mining Corporation Limited, Utah Mines Limited and Gibraltar Mines Limited), and from one mine in Quebec (Gaspé Copper Mines, Limited). Brenda is the second largest producer in Canada accounting for approximately 25% of the country's molybdenum production.

During 1975 there was little exploration undertaken. The only property under active consideration was the 'extension' of the Boss Mountain deposit of Brynnor Mines Limited. A high-grade portion of the deposit is being mined by Brynnor; however, this high-grade area will be depleted within five years. The 'extension' is of a much lower grade and further drilling was undertaken in 1976 to determine if production would be warranted.

Platinum group metals. Production of platinum group metals in 1975 was 430,000 oz t (13 374 000 g) valued at \$61,231,000 compared with 384,618 oz t (11 962 957 g) in 1974 valued at \$60,794,030. Canada produces platinum metals as a by-product of nickel refining. When nickel matte is electrolytically refined, the platinum group metals — platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium and osmium concentrate in the residue. The residue or sludge is upgraded and sent to refineries in Britain and the US for recovery of the platinum metals. Canada ranked third in world platinum metals production in 1975 behind South Africa and the USSR.

The world-wide decline in business activity in 1975 was reflected in a lower price for most of the platinum metals. The two largest South African producers initiated a 25% reduction in output in 1975 to better align supply and demand.

Cobalt. Canadian shipments of cobalt amounted to 2.95 million lb. (1.34 million kg) valued at \$11.6 million in 1975 compared with 3.45 million lb. (1.56 million kg) valued at \$10.1 million in 1974. Cobalt is recovered principally as a by-product of nickel-copper ores; there is also some cobalt recovered 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