

Saskatchewan produces mainly mineral fuels and non-metals. Crude petroleum and potash represented 48.0% and 39.8% of 1976 mineral production. Metallics constituted only 2.8% of the total. Renewed interest in uranium resulted in increased production and in 1976 Saskatchewan accounted for 35.8% of total Canadian production.

Alberta. Mineral production was valued at almost \$7,000 million in 1976 with crude petroleum, natural gas and natural gas byproducts representing 94.5% of the total. Sulphur, produced as a byproduct in processing natural gas, represented 1.5% of mineral production. Alberta produced 85.5% of Canada's petroleum and 93.3% of Canada's natural gas in 1976. Coal production accounted for 3.2% of provincial mineral production. Structural materials made up most of the remainder.

British Columbia. Mineral output increased 9.6% to \$1,421 million in 1976. Metallics comprised 50.0% and mineral fuels 39.9% of all mineral production with copper accounting for 29.0%, zinc 6.3%, molybdenum 6.6% and lead 3.1%. Coal represented 21.6%, natural gas 9.2% and crude petroleum 8.0% of the total. Production of copper in all forms was increased with mine production value up 13.5% from 1975. Coal production decreased to 7.7 million tonnes in 1976. Asbestos was the leading non-metallic mineral produced.

Northwest Territories. The value of mineral production in 1976 increased to \$213 million from \$206 million in 1975. Metallic minerals accounted for almost all of the total. Zinc comprised 56.2%, lead 12.6%, gold 10.8% and silver 7.0% of total mineral output. Crude oil and natural gas are of considerable potential value.

Yukon Territory. The value of production decreased to \$131 million compared to \$230 million in 1975. Zinc made up 32.6% of total production, asbestos 26.2%, lead 14.5%, copper 12.6% and silver 10.2%. Output is not large by national standards but is increasing rapidly.

12.3 Metals

12.3.1 Iron ore

Iron ore shipments in 1976 were 56.9 million tonnes compared with the previous year's 44.9 million tonnes. These figures include about 0.45 million tonnes of byproduct iron ore. The value of the shipments including byproduct ore was \$1.2 billion compared with \$918 million for 1975. The increase in shipments was due mainly to improvements in the operations at Wabush Mines, of the Iron Ore Co. of Canada (IOC) and to new production from the Mount Wright operation in Quebec, owned by Quebec Cartier Mining Co., a subsidiary of United States Steel Corp.

Iron ore was produced by 16 mining companies at 18 locations, with nine operations in Ontario, four in Quebec, two in Labrador, two in British Columbia and one in Quebec-Labrador.

Shipments by province in 1976 were as follows: Newfoundland 27.9 million tonnes; Quebec 17.7 million tonnes; Ontario 10.3 million tonnes and British Columbia 809 000 tonnes. IOC is the largest Canadian producer with 25.1 million tonnes followed by Quebec Cartier Mining at 14.1 million tonnes and Wabush Mines at 5.5 million tonnes.

Exports increased from 36.0 million tonnes to 44.7 million tonnes in 1976. Exports were expected to increase considerably in the following two years with the Mount Wright development reaching full production of 18.0 million tonnes a year in 1978, all for export.

Imports decreased from 4.8 million tonnes in 1975 to 3.0 million tonnes in 1976. This was due to increased production from Wabush Mines in which the Steel Company of Canada Ltd. (STELCO) and Dominion Foundries and Steel Ltd. (DOFASCO) have an interest. Imports, however, were expected to increase during the next three years as new taconite deposits in the US, in which STELCO, DOFASCO and Algoma Steel Corp. have taken equity participation, are fully developed and production reaches capacity.

Starting in 1977 it was expected that DOFASCO would receive about 0.6 million tonnes of pellets a year from its terms of investment in the Eveleth mine in Minnesota.