

producer with 14.0 million tonnes followed by Quebec Cartier Mining Co. at 10.0 million and Wabush Mines at 4.3 million.

Exports decreased from 45.1 million tonnes in 1977 to 32.0 million in 1978. Imports increased from 2.5 million to 4.7 million. By 1979, imports from the United States by Canada's three major steel producers, namely, The Steel Co. of Canada Ltd. (Stelco), Dominion Foundries and Steel Ltd. (Dofasco) and The Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. (Algoma) were expected to reach a high of 6.0 million a year as a result of investments by these companies in United States iron ore operations. Imports by these companies represented some 40% of Canada's total iron ore consumption in 1979.

Mine developments. In March 1978 Bethlehem Steel Corp. of the United States closed its Marmoraton Mining Co. mine, concentrator and plant near Marmora, Ont. About 1.5 to 2.0 million tonnes of ore were left in the ground. The closure date was advanced from July 1980 because demand for iron ore by Bethlehem had been considerably reduced and financial losses had been heavy in 1977. Markets other than steel are being sought by government and industry entrepreneurs for the remaining ore reserves.

Steep Rock Iron Mines Ltd. of Atikokan, Ont. ceased operations in August 1979 because of low reserves and because Caland Ore Co. Ltd. had decided to terminate its lease on the orebody owned by Steep Rock. Steep Rock also postponed the development

Canada's mineral production was valued at \$19.7 billion in 1978, more than half of it from petroleum, natural gas and iron ore. About 84.5% of the petroleum and 91.7% of the natural gas were produced in Alberta, and nearly all the iron ore came from Newfoundland, Quebec and Ontario. In 1968, Canada's total mineral production was valued at \$4.7 billion.

of the Bending Lake iron ore deposit located some 60 km (kilometres) northwest of Atikokan, mainly because of the iron ore surplus both at Algoma Steel and in the Great Lakes region. An assessment of Bending Lake proved the deposit to be uneconomic at least for the next couple of years.

A fourth division of Sidbec was formed: Sidbec International Inc. is responsible for export sales of iron ore pellets, sponge iron and raw steel. Sidbec-Feruni Inc. had been responsible for the sale of these products in the export markets.

Steel Alberta Ltd. purchased two adjacent iron ore properties located some 100 km south of Butte, Montana and 650 km south of Calgary. The iron ore deposit contains about 80 million tonnes of proven ore (magnetite) grading 25% to 28% iron and a further 80 million tonnes of probable ore. Initial plans call for a market survey in the United States and Canada for the sale of pellets and sponge iron.

A study is being prepared by the three major steel companies on the future developments (mid- to late-1980s) of iron ore deposits in northwestern Ontario. The study will determine the feasibility of building a pellet plant (possibly on Lake Superior) that would draw feed from their pooled deposits.

Toll increases on the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1978 raised the cost of iron ore imported through the Welland Canal from the United States. Also, royalty incomes for some Canadian exploration companies will be reduced by the toll increases because royalties are based on free on board prices of concentrates and pellets at Sept-Îles.

International development. A Canadian scientific mission visited China in 1978 to identify iron resources that are especially significant for the development of a modern iron ore industry in China and to discuss iron ore exploration and resource evaluation methods. The deposits in China are usually low grade and show many similarities with the deposits being mined in Canada. Geophysical equipment manufactured in Canada has been sold to China.

In August 1978, Chinese engineers visited several mines and iron ore processing plants in the Quebec-Labrador region, mining machinery manufacturers in Ontario and