

evaluated by Brinco Ltd., and the McAdam Mining Corp. Ltd. property east of Chibougamau, being evaluated by Rio Algom Ltd.

In 1978, Cassiar Asbestos Corp. Ltd. in British Columbia produced over 70 000 t of fibre from the Cassiar mine. The same company produced more than 60 000 t of fibre from its Clinton Creek, Yukon mine. Production from Clinton Creek ceased in mid-1978 when ore reserves were exhausted.

Advocate Mines Ltd., Newfoundland's only asbestos producer, produced approximately 30 000 t of fibre in 1978. A four-month long strike severely curtailed output.

Clay and clay products

12.4.2

Shipments of clay and clay products from domestic sources in 1978 were valued at \$107 million, up from the 1977 figure of \$103 million. Deposits of clay for use in the manufacture of papers, refractories, high quality whitewares and stoneware products are scarce in Canada so many of these products, as well as china clay (kaolin), fire clay, ball clay and stoneware clay, are largely imported. In Canada common clays and shales, higher in alkalis and lower in alumina than the other clays, are used to manufacture brick and tile products.

Potash

12.4.3

Canadian shipments, at \$493 million in 1978, all from Saskatchewan, amounted to 6.4 million tonnes of potassium dioxide equivalent compared with 5.7 million shipped in 1977 (Table 12.18). Installed production capacity was 12.3 million tonnes of potassium chloride. In 1978 the industry operated at 81% capacity and the Saskatchewan government completed a program of acquiring potash mines through the Crown corporation Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan which now controls approximately 40% of the industry.

About 95% of the world's potash output is used for fertilizers, the balance being used for industrial purposes.

In New Brunswick, Potash Co. of America completed exploratory drilling and began development plans on a potash lease granted in 1973 to bring a potash mine into production in 1981. A lease was issued to the International Minerals & Chemical Corp. (Canada) Ltd. (IMC Canada) for exploration and development of potash and salt on a 200 km² tract near Salt Springs. Of 10 holes drilled, seven made intersections in potash.

Salt

12.4.4

Canadian shipments of salt amounted to 6.2 million tonnes valued at \$104 million in 1978. About 70% of the total was rock salt used principally for snow and ice control on streets and highways and for chemical manufacturing. The remainder is fine (evaporated) vacuum salt and salt as brine used for producing caustic soda and chlorine.

There are three rock salt mines, one in Nova Scotia and two in Ontario. Salt is produced as a byproduct of potash mining in Saskatchewan. The two companies drilling for potash in New Brunswick were also exploring for salt, and were to continue development. Fine salt evaporator plants and brining operations are located in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Quebec government through Seleine Inc., a subsidiary of Quebec Mining Exploration Co., advanced its plans to develop a salt mine in the Magdalen Islands. Total capital costs for the mine and an associated port were forecast to exceed \$50 million. Quebec Mining expected initial production at the rate of about 900 000 t a year to begin in 1980.

Sulphur

12.4.5

Canadian sulphur shipments in all forms in 1978 amounted to 6.5 million tonnes valued at \$114 million. Shipments increased 10% in volume and 20% in value compared to 1977.

Canadian sulphur is obtained from three sources: sour natural gas and petroleum, including the tar sands, which produce elemental sulphur; smelter gases which produce sulphuric acid; and pyrite concentrates used in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Small amounts of elemental sulphur are recovered as a byproduct of electrolytic refining of