

nickel sulphide matte and a small quantity of liquid sulphur dioxide is produced from pyrites and smelter gases. In 1978, 88% of sulphur shipments were in elemental form, nearly all from sour natural gas.

Canadian production of sulphur in all forms peaked in 1973 at 8.1 million tonnes, 7.4 million in elemental form. In 1978, total output was estimated at 7.0 million tonnes, the 12% decline mainly reflecting reduced output from sour natural gas in Western Canada. The difference between production and shipments of 0.5 million tonnes represents addition to stockpiles which have topped 21 million. Since 1968 Canada has been the world's largest exporter of elemental sulphur.

#### 12.4.6 Gypsum

In 1978 Canadian production of crude gypsum, valued at \$36.8 million, rose to 7.9 million tonnes from 7.2 million in 1977, most of it exported to the Eastern US. Exports were mainly from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland quarries operated by Canadian subsidiaries of US gypsum products manufacturers.

Nine companies produced crude gypsum at 13 locations, while five manufactured gypsum products at 19 locations. Production of gypsum in Canada is closely related to the building construction industry, particularly residential building in both Canada and the Eastern US.

Construction of plant and mine expansions continued at the Ontario operations of both Domtar Inc. and Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. A new shaft, developed during 1978 by Westroc Industries Ltd. at Drumbo, Ont., started production in January 1979. Westroc began shipments from a new quarry at Amaranth, Man. in October 1978.

#### 12.4.7 Nepheline syenite

Nepheline syenite was produced from two operations on Blue Mountain, 40 km northeast of Peterborough, Ont. In 1978 production was estimated at 579 000 t, up marginally over 1977. The value of shipments was \$13.1 million, up 8%. Exports accounted for 71% of total shipments. Sales to the US, 91% of Canada's total exports, decreased 7%. Nepheline syenite is preferred to feldspar as a source of essential alumina and alkalis in glass manufacture. Other uses include the manufacture of ceramics, enamels, paints, papers, plastics and foam rubber. Canada is the world's largest producer of nepheline syenite.

#### 12.4.8 Structural materials

The value of all construction undertaken in Canada in 1978 was roughly \$38 billion, an increase of 6.0% over 1977. Production of such structural materials as cement, sand and gravel, stone, clay and clay products and lime, was valued at \$1.4 billion, 7% of the total value of mineral production in Canada.

Canadian production of cement, valued at \$481 million in 1978, was 10.8 million tonnes, an increase reflecting increased demand for cement in the United States at a time when US producers could not maintain production goals. Cement was produced in all provinces except Prince Edward Island with Ontario and Quebec accounting for 65% of the Canadian total. Production capacity at the end of 1978 was about 16 million tonnes a year, excluding the capacity of five clinker grinding plants, two of them (belonging to Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd.) former fully integrated cement plants. Capacity changes indicated a net increase of 1.0 million tonnes a year. A new plant of Inland Cement Industries Ltd. at Vancouver came on stream but its Bamberton plant was not phased out as planned because of the buoyant export market. The rehabilitation and conversion of the Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd. Montreal plant was not continued because of poor market conditions in Quebec.

An expansion program at Inland's Edmonton, Alta. plant was reassessed in 1978 to include a new dry process kiln. Upon plant completion, the new capacity will be 1.2 million tonnes. Production at Canada Cement Lafarge in Edmonton was expected to increase to 600 000 t by 1980.

Genstar Ltd. of Montreal, which also controls Inland Cement Industries Ltd. sold its subsidiary operation, Miron Company Ltd., in 1979. Miron, operating in the St.