

Michel district of Montreal, has been one of the largest cement producers in Quebec and also includes major concrete products and construction branches.

In its first move outside of Ontario since it was founded in 1912, St. Marys Cement Ltd. acquired all the assets of Wyandotte Cement Inc. of Michigan, affording the company access to US markets. Wyandotte will grind clinker from St. Marys Bowmanville, Ont. plant and other sources to produce about 350 000 t of cement a year for the Detroit regional market.

Early in 1978 St. Lawrence Cement Co. leased a 750 000 t a year plant from Colonial Sand and Stone Co., Inc., Kingston, New York, with an option to purchase (for US\$7 million) within six years.

The cement industry's goal of a 9% to 12% reduction in energy consumption by 1980, compared to the base year of 1974, appears to be realistic as production in 1977 required 4.91 million Btus a ton, 8.2% lower than the unit consumption in 1974.

Production of sand and gravel in 1978 was 265 million tonnes valued at \$375 million. Sand and gravel must be quarried, screened, washed, stockpiled and transported in large volume to compensate for the low unit value received. Transportation and handling often double the plant cost, making it economically desirable to establish plants close to major consuming centres. Urban expansion has greatly accelerated the demand for sand and gravel and many pits and quarries have been over-run by growing communities. Sand and gravel are used as fill, as granular base course and finish course in highway construction and as aggregate in concrete and asphalt.

Production of stone in 1978 was 112 million tonnes valued at \$317 million. Dimension stone, for use in building and ornamental work, accounts for about 1%. Crushed stone for use as aggregate in concrete and asphalt, as railroad ballast and road metal accounts for about 80% and the remainder is used in metallurgical, chemical and allied industries.

Mineral fuels

12.5

Chapter 13, Energy, and Tables 12.4 and 12.8 give an outline of coal, oil, natural gas and uranium as well as production figures.

Coal

12.5.1

Canada's coal industry continued to grow in 1978 with production, consumption and several other indicators registering increases over 1977. As with the previous year, the thermal sector of the industry was more active than the coking sector. The value of production increased to \$733 million in 1978, up from \$609 million in 1977.

Oil and natural gas

12.5.2

The outlook for the Canadian oil and gas industry, particularly in terms of supply, improved markedly in 1978 as realized potential for proving up significant amounts of new oil and gas reserves in western Canada was augmented to some degree by exploratory successes offshore in the Canadian Arctic and Labrador Sea. The prospect that the frontier regions might ultimately yield significant quantities of oil in addition to gas is now a possibility and is most timely since Canada's oil reserves have been declining steadily for the past decade. The supply scenario for natural gas is more favourable than that of oil. Additions to gas reserves from established producing areas, which fell below annual production in 1972 and 1973, are well above production rates.

Uranium

12.5.3

Prospects for the uranium industry remained buoyant throughout 1978 despite continued uncertainty about projections of nuclear power growth. Perhaps the most important stimulus to the industry was the approval by the Ontario government of two major long-term sales contracts to Ontario Hydro which will permit uranium operations to continue in the Elliot Lake area of Ontario, well into the next century. With continued growth in Canada's export markets it was expected that uranium would once again become one of Canada's leading export commodities.