

year, was officially opened; the site was designed so that capacity could be increased in stages to 5.4 million tonnes.

A large scale expansion program undertaken by Sidbec-Dosco Ltd. in 1973 at its Contrecoeur site was completed in early 1978 when a new slab caster was commissioned. Sidbec became the fourth largest steel producer in Canada with crude steelmaking capacity of about 1.5 million tonnes.

Interprovincial Steel and Pipe Corp. Ltd. (IPSCO), the largest pipe producer in Canada, announced a \$68.5 million expansion for its Regina steel plant to increase steelmaking capacity by about one-third to 630 000 t a year. This program will enable IPSCO to increase its production capability of large diameter Arctic-grade pipe.

Sydney Steel Corp. (Sysco) of Sydney, NS, a provincial Crown corporation, continued with an \$18 million rehabilitation program during 1978 to overhaul or replace key equipment, reactivate a continuous casting machine and introduce metering and control systems. Sysco announced a new six-year \$200 million contract with Canadian National Railway for rails, with annual shipments to range between 80 000 t and 109 000 t.

Tree Island Steel Co. Ltd. (Tisco) of Richmond, BC was to construct a \$50 million steel wire rod mill with annual capacity of some 218 000 t for start-up in the early 1980s. Tisco's two wire mills in Richmond and Los Angeles would each receive about 25% of production from the new plant, with the balance to be marketed in western Canada and the northwestern United States.

Lake Ontario Steel Co. Ltd. (Lasco) of Whitby, Ont. planned to double its electric steelmaking capacity from 400 000 to 800 000 t a year by 1980. Stanley Steel Co., Ltd. was doubling capacity at its Hamilton plant to 160 000 t a year by adding a new rolling mill, a \$10 million project to be completed in late 1980.

Courtice Specialty Steels Ltd. reached agreement with Sysco for the supply of billets to be delivered over a three-year period. Annual shipments will range between a minimum of 33 000 t and a maximum of 43 000 t. The mill, which came on stream in early 1977 at Bowmanville, Ont., has a capacity of some 50 000 t of rebars, rounds, squares and angles.

The Nova Scotia government terminated activities of the provincial Crown corporation, Cansteel Corp. which had been established in 1975 to investigate the potential for development of a new large-scale steel plant at Gabarus Bay, Cape Breton Island.

During the year the Canadian Anti-Dumping Tribunal ruled that injury had taken place or would take place from dumping stainless steel plate from Japan and South Africa, stainless steel sheet from Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany and graphite electrodes from Japan.

In early 1978, Revenue Canada was given responsibility to monitor Canadian steel imports and set up procedures to deal quickly with any injuriously dumped steel. Accordingly, a task force produced a benchmark price system as criteria against which to direct import prices. These prices established a price threshold below which customs officials can normally suspect that dumping is taking place and can initiate an accelerated investigation if it appears that Canadian steel producers are being injured. The task force also consults regularly with the steel industry and this system appears to be working successfully.

Government aid to the mineral industry

12.7

Federal government aid

12.7.1

The federal government helps mining by providing detailed geological, geophysical, topographical, geodetic, geographical and marine data; technical information concerning the processing of ores, industrial minerals and fuels on a commercial scale; and certain tax incentives.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. This federal department was created on October 1, 1966 (RSC 1970, c.E-6). It conducts research into methods of extracting and processing minerals and fuels. Emphasis is placed on recovery techniques