

closed in July 1973 because underground development revealed major mining difficulties.

The Langmuir mine (jointly owned by Noranda Mines, Limited and INCO) near Timmins, Ont. went into production in 1973. Work on a small nickel-copper deposit near Temagami, Ont., owned by Kanichee Mining Incorporated, continued in 1972.

Consolidated Canadian Faraday Limited closed its Werner Lake mine in August 1972 when ore reserves were depleted. Texmont Mines Limited, which began mining in the Timmins area of Ontario in 1971, continued to produce a nickel concentrate until November 1972. Most of Texmont's concentrate was being stockpiled. Renzy Mines Limited suspended production at its open-pit mine in Hainault Township, Quebec in April 1972 when the smelter contract with Falconbridge was terminated.

Iron ore. Iron ore shipments in 1972 declined 7.8% to 39,783,000 tons compared with the previous year. Production amounted to 35,430,624 tons (Table 12.11). The balance of the shipments, 3,496,376 tons, came from producer stockpiles. The value of shipments declined 6.8% to \$517,150,000. [All figures pertaining to iron ore in this text are in long tons (2,240 lb.).]

Iron ore was produced by 17 companies at 18 locations with 10 operations in Ontario, three in British Columbia, two in Quebec, two in Labrador and one in Quebec-Labrador. Two by-product operations, Cominco Ltd. and Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, were closed in 1972. Estimated production capacity at the end of 1972 was 47.3 million tons of iron ore, of which 25.0 million tons was iron pellet capacity.

Newfoundland, the largest iron ore producing province, recorded the largest decrease in shipments, 3,144,997 tons or 16.1% compared with the previous year. In Quebec production dropped 981,684 tons or 8.9%. In the Quebec-Labrador area, a series of labour strikes lasting 6 to 12 weeks reduced production. The Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC), the largest Canadian producer, experienced a decline of 20.9% in shipments as a result of a strike. Quebec Cartier Mining Company (QCM) reduced shipments by 6.3% and Wabush Mines increased production slightly. The construction of three large iron ore projects continued in 1972. IOC's expansion of the Carol Lake concentrator to 10 million tons a year and construction of two six million tons-a-year pellet plants at Sept-Îles were delayed by strikes and opened in early 1973. QCM continued to develop the Mount Wright ore project and townsite. These projects have provided a total of 3,350 new jobs.

With high domestic and US demand most Ontario mines shipped iron ore at near-capacity in 1972. Steel companies own the majority of mines in Ontario and receive most of the production. As a result Ontario mines are less susceptible to fluctuations in the world market. However, The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO) produced 700,000 tons of iron pellets, well below capacity. Falconbridge closed its by-product iron (pyrrhotite) plant to reduce pollution and will close its new nickel-iron refinery in 1973 because of technical difficulties in processing.

In British Columbia, shipments declined by 574,097 tons or 33.3%. A Japanese seamen's strike halted shipments to Japan and forced temporary closure of Wesfrob Mines Limited during part of 1972. Japanese and American customers also reduced their iron ore requirements. Texada Mines Ltd. continued to export to Japan using its own bulk carrier. Cominco Ltd. closed its iron ore recovery plant for economic reasons.

Since a large proportion of Canadian iron ore is exported, 72.4% in 1972, the industry is sensitive to world market conditions. Because of the slowdown in the steel industry and the seriousness of the world monetary situation, iron ore stocks and finished steel inventories were built up by the end of 1971. Combined with a reduction in projected Japanese requirements, this resulted in reduced iron ore exports in 1972.

Imports increased to 1.6 million tons, representing only the second increase in the downward trend that began in 1964. Imports are expected to rise to 3.0 million tons after 1974 when the Tilden Mine in Michigan begins production. Two Canadian steel companies have contracted to take 1.7 million tons a year.

Domestic shipments established a new record at 9.9 million tons. Consumption of iron ore increased to 11.7 million tons. The steel industry used 9.7 million tons of domestic ore, 1.6 million tons of imports and 0.4 million tons from consumer stocks.

Lead and zinc. Canadian production of lead in 1972 was 369,425 tons valued at \$114 million. Mine production decreased 8.9% in volume but increased 4.1% in value compared to the previous year (Table 12.12). Output of refined lead was 205,978 tons, up 11% from 1971.