

Company of Canada, Limited at Copper Cliff, Ont. (from nickel-copper concentrates) and the Royal Canadian Mint at Ottawa (from gold bullion). At Belledune, NB, Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited recovered by-product silver bullion from lead-zinc concentrates treated in a blast furnace. One silver refinery, owned by Kam-Kotia Mines Limited at Cobalt, Ont., closed in February 1972.

Silver production in the Atlantic Provinces dropped 21.1% in 1972 from the previous year. Silver output in Quebec recovered from base-metal and gold ores, was substantially lower in 1972 than in 1971. Reduced output from Manitou-Barvue Mines Limited near Val d'Or, which was shut down for most of the first half of 1972, accounted for much of the decrease.

Ontario was the leading silver-producing province with 43.7% of Canada's production in 1972. The largest producer in Canada was Ecstall Mining Limited, which recovered 13 million oz t of silver from lead, zinc and copper concentrates at its Kidd Creek mine near Timmins.

In Manitoba and Saskatchewan most of the silver continued to come from 10 base-metal mines operated by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited near Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Base-metal ores continued to be the main source of British Columbia's mine output of silver. Cominco Ltd., the province's major silver producer, recovered silver from the lead-zinc-silver ores of its Sullivan mine in southeastern British Columbia and from purchased ores and concentrates. Mill tune-up operations began in March 1972 at the silver-zinc-copper-lead property of Nadina Explorations Limited, 28 miles south of Houston.

Sharply increased silver production in 1972 in the Northwest Territories resulted from much higher output by Terra Mining and Exploration Limited. Terra and Echo Bay Mines Ltd., which operate silver-copper properties near Port Radium on the east shore of Great Bear Lake, were the principal silver producers in the Northwest Territories.

A decrease of 13.2% in silver production in 1972 in the Yukon Territory resulted from lower outputs at the zinc-lead-silver properties of Anvil Mining Corp. Limited and United Keno Hill Mines Limited.

Uranium. Canadian uranium shipments rose 18.8% in 1972 to 4,881 tons of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) (Table 12.16). The bulk of it came from the Elliot Lake area of Ontario where Denison Mines Limited and Rio Algom Mines Limited recover uranium from quartz-pebble conglomerates. Eldorado Nuclear Limited, Canada's third largest producer, recovers uranium from pitchblende occurring in vein-type deposits near Uranium City, Sask. Denison operated its mill at about 70% of its nominal 6,000 ton-a-day capacity. Rio Algom operated its Quirke mill at its full 4,500 ton-a-day capacity during 1972. The New Quirke mine is now supplying the mill's total feed and is operating at about 6,500 tons a day, well in excess of its original design capacity. In Saskatchewan, Eldorado continued operating its 1,800 ton-a-day mill at about half capacity.

Uranium exploration activity in Canada was minimal in 1972. Perhaps the only significant Canadian development occurred when Mokta (Canada) Ltée confirmed in late 1972 that it had outlined a small but rich uranium orebody at Cluff Lake in the Carswell dome area of Saskatchewan.

Gulf Minerals Canada Limited proceeded with work at its Rabbit Lake property, near the southwestern end of Wollaston Lake in northern Saskatchewan. Construction of the mill, capacity 4.5 million lb. of uranium oxide a year, began in 1973 with first production scheduled for 1975.

Denison amalgamated with Stanrock Uranium Mines Limited which produced uranium from an adjoining property until 1970 when lack of markets forced it to close.

In June 1971 the federal government formed a new Crown company, Uranium Canada, Limited (UCAN), to act as its agent in the acquisition and future sales of the joint uranium stockpile established earlier in the year by agreement between the federal government and Denison. Subsequently UCAN's role was broadened to give it authority over future sales from the general government stockpile.

In August 1972 the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources issued a directive to the Atomic Energy Control Board respecting minimum selling prices and volumes of sales to export markets to be considered in the granting of uranium export permits. The directive was made in an effort to stabilize the current uranium marketing situation and to promote the development of the Canadian uranium industry.