

Limited completed about 75% of its plant expansion and relocation program as part of a \$75 million project at the Jeffery mine and mill. A constant annual output of a minimum 600,000 tons of fibre will be maintained and the expanded facilities will allow recovery of some fibre from pre-1930 tailings. Bell Asbestos Mines, Ltd. continued work on a long-range modernization program which may result in increased production capacity. A production-sized shaft has been sunk to a depth of 1,450 ft near the open pit; underground work proceeded from the shaft with a view to large-scale underground mining.

Evaluation of several potential producers in Quebec continued in 1972. McAdam Mining Corporation Limited's property about 20 miles east of Chibougamau, now under working option to Rio Tinto Canadian Exploration Limited, is being evaluated in an underground work program. Abitibi Asbestos Mining Company Limited reported that work on a pilot plant commenced at its property in Maizerets Township, 50 miles north of Amos. Pathfinder Resources Ltd. and Pan Ocean Oil Ltd. are negotiating an agreement that may result in the development of Pathfinder's Lili asbestos property, 80 miles east of Montreal.

In British Columbia, Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited, Cassiar, shipped over 100,000 tons of fibre following its 1971 mill expansion to an annual capacity of 120,000 tons of fibre. Recent drilling confirmed that there are sufficient reserves for at least another 20 years of mining.

In the Yukon Territory over 100,000 tons of fibre was shipped from Cassiar's Clinton Creek mine.

Advocate Mines Limited, Newfoundland's only asbestos producer, maintained fibre shipments at 69,000 tons.

In Ontario total production by Hedman Mines Limited and Johns-Manville Mining and Trading Limited's Reeves mine decreased 19% from 1971. This was partly the result of a one month suspension of operations at the Reeves mine because of poor market conditions and a large stockpile of available fibre.

United Asbestos Inc. and Allied Mining Corporation propose to bring into production the asbestos property owned by Allied in Midlothian Township, 43 miles south of Timmins, Ont.

**Potash.** Canadian production in 1972, all from Saskatchewan, amounted to 3.9 million tons of potassium dioxide ( $K_2O$ ) equivalent (Table 12.18). The installed annual capacity is the world's largest at 8.32 million tons of potassium dioxide equivalent. All 10 mines were in operation throughout 1972, with the exception of Cominco Ltd.'s mine. Cominco's mine re-opened in September after flooding of the underground workings forced a 25-month shutdown. Effective June 1, 1972 the Saskatchewan government began collecting a proration fee of 60 cents a ton of potassium chloride. The Saskatchewan government controlled production under the Potash Conservation Regulations, 1969 for the third consecutive year and all sales were subject to a floor price of 33.75 cents per unit of potassium dioxide.

In New Brunswick an agreement was reached between the province and Potash Company of America (PCA) for the right to explore for potash and salt in a 224-sq-mile area near Sussex. Potash was discovered in the Sussex area during a federal-provincial exploration program in 1971. Demand for potash continued to increase in 1972.

**Salt.** Salt production in Canada in 1972 remained almost unchanged from the previous year. Canadian shipments of salt amounted to 5.4 million tons valued at \$40.1 million (Table 12.19). About 75% of total shipments were rock salt that is used for snow and ice control on city streets and highways and for chemical manufacturing. The remainder is fine vacuum salt and salt as brine that is used for producing caustic soda and chlorine.

There are three rock salt mines, one in Nova Scotia and two in Ontario. Salt is also produced as a by-product of potash mining in Saskatchewan. Fine salt evaporator plants and brining operations are located in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A joint federal-provincial exploration program discovered a potash-salt deposit in Kings County, NB, in 1971. In August 1972 Quebec Mining Exploration Company (SOQUEM) announced discovery of a large salt deposit in the Magdalen Islands, 50 miles north of Prince Edward Island.

**Sulphur.** Canadian sulphur shipments in all forms in 1972 amounted to 4.4 million tons valued at \$25.2 million (Table 12.20). Shipments increased 26.8% in volume but decreased 7.1% in value compared to the previous year.