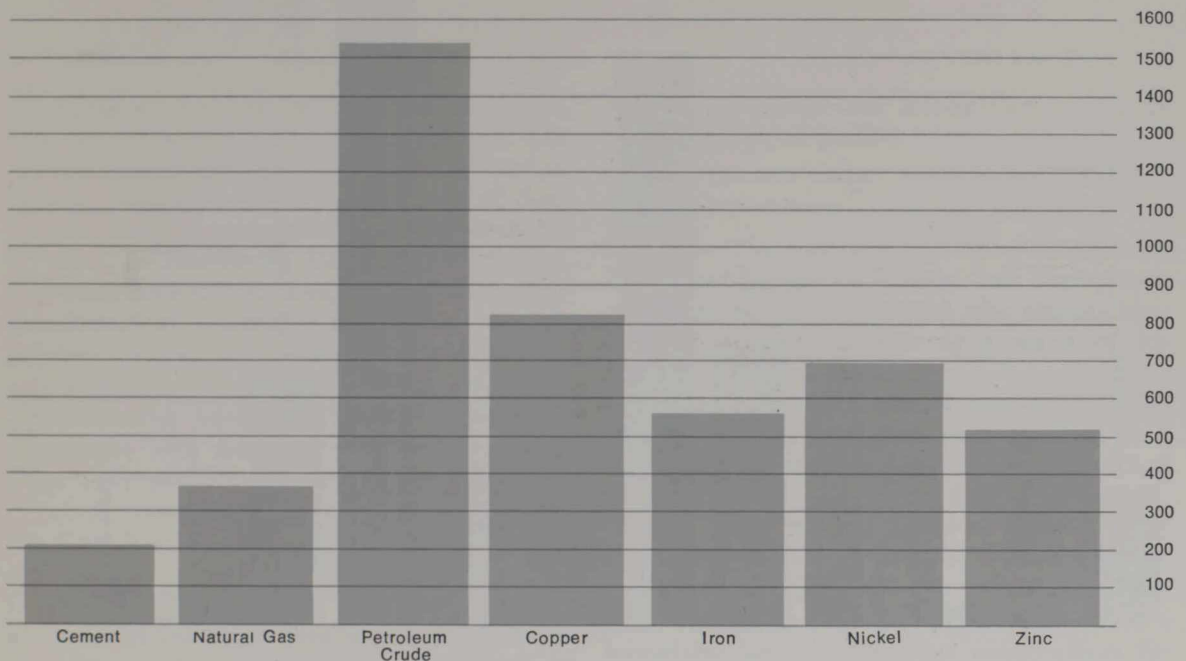


Mineral Production of Canada, 1972

In Millions of Dollars



bit of Manitoba, part of Saskatchewan, most of Alberta, a slice of British Columbia and part of the Northwest Territories. They have oil and an enormous potential for more. Oil is being produced in southern Alberta and further north at Rainbow and Zama Lakes. The potential includes the fuel-bearing sedimentary material of the Mackenzie Delta and the Arctic Islands and the Great Canadian Oil Sands in Alberta—beds of black, sticky tar sands, 200 feet thick, covering 30,000 square miles, with an estimated content of 600 billion barrels. At the present level of technology, not all of this vast reserve is economically recoverable. The Plains have 12,000 protected buffalo at Wood Buffalo National Park. Beneath the buffalo are more oil and the greatest deposit of pure gypsum on the continent, a constant temptation to men who would tap these resources.

West of the Plains is the Cordilleran region (the mountains of western Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory) rich in timber and minerals, but hard to get to. There are seventy mountains which rise above 11,000 feet.

Far north, north of Greenland, above the 80th parallel, is the Innuitian region, ancient mountains partly covered by glaciers and potentially rich in oil and ore.

The fabulous North has recently developed at an extraordinary pace. The resources lay dormant for 600 million years; most of the time there were no men, and when they came nobody needed molyb-

denum. Men did, in time, recognize a need for iron and silver, and in 1604 Canada's first mining operations began at St. Mary's Bay in Nova Scotia. By 1855, gold, the most obvious of riches, was found in Fraser River, British Columbia. In 1896 the Klondike rush, the most productive strike in history, began. In 1932 silver-radium deposits were found at Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories. (Great Bear Lake remains, at this date at least, unspoiled, and it is possible for some \$2,000 to spend two weeks there enjoying the best lake trout fishing in the world.) The real development began after World War II, particularly in the 1950's, when the United States and Canada established the cold war frontier north of the continent with the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning Radar Stations). The establishment brought technicians into the far north and with the technicians came techniques for mapping land, maintaining life, transporting luxuries, and finding mineral deposits.

The results have been part of a complex of developments involving, among other things, the founding of new towns by white Canadians and new lives for Eskimos and Indians, the consciousness that pollution is a serious and possibly a permanent danger, and the question of who controls (and who should) the enormous wealth which lays beneath the surface.

The new towns are impressive. The International Nickel Company of Canada, Ltd., has