

Canada. The "big four" include the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation, Sydney, N.S.; the Steel Co. of Canada and the Dominion Foundries and Steel Co., both in Hamilton; and Algoma Steel Corporation at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. They account for nearly all of the nation's ingot output. These mills collectively combine all processing stages from pig-iron production to the manufacture of flat-rolled and wire products. Canadian Furnace Ltd., wholly owned by Algoma Steel Corporation, at Port Colborne, Ontario, produces pig iron only. Another six smaller companies make steel for rolling from scrap, as they have no blast-furnace facilities. These are located at Montreal and Sherbrooke in Quebec; Welland and Hamilton in Ontario; Selkirk, Manitoba; and Vancouver, British Columbia. Two other companies located in Hamilton, Ontario, operate only cold-rolling mills.

Canadian iron-ore and coal reserves are very large. However, the major coal deposits lie far to the east and west of the principal industrial centres. Iron-ore mines now operating on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes have only been opened up in recent years and supplies from Quebec-Labrador will probably not be available before 1954 or 1955. Availability of these resources has, as yet, had little influence on the structure of the industry. American iron and coal resources have been more centrally located and southern Ontario firms are still drawing most of their raw materials from mines which they own in the United States. Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation at Sydney is an exception. It obtains iron ore from its Wabana mines in Newfoundland and coal from collieries close to its steel plant on Cape Breton Island.

The mills in southern Ontario are able to use cheap water transportation for their raw materials. They have the advantage of ready access to industrial markets in central Quebec and Ontario and a large local supply of scrap metal. The mills at Sault Ste. Marie and Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation are at a disadvantage in this respect. Since they were organized primarily to serve the market for rails during the period of railway construction, they encountered difficulties when this demand largely disappeared. Local raw materials have involved many mining and metallurgical problems. When the Sydney plant was built it was the intention it would also enter the overseas export markets.

Canadian Steel Consumption

Canadian consumption of primary steel as such has been rising for many years. In 1900, it was less than 15 lbs. per person (ingot equivalent). By 1920, it had risen to 350 lbs. and, in 1939, it was 335 lbs. Per capita consumption in 1950 was approximately 675 lbs.

These figures are well below those reported in the United States and are in the same order as those for Great Britain. In 1950 per capita usage in the U.S. was 1,200 lbs. and in the U.K. it was 630 lbs. The apparently low rate of consumption in Canada relative to the U.S. is partly explained by the fact that considerable tonnages of steel are imported in the form of production parts and finished goods such as vehicles and machinery and equipment. When allowances are made for this, per capita consumption in Canada is found to be in the order of 950 lbs. a year.