

Canada, ranking second to the Soviet Union, produces nearly eight million tonnes of potash yearly, all of it in Saskatchewan.

The deposits in Saskatchewan, where according to the present estimates, more than 50 per cent of the world's reserves are found, are flat and the "chamber-and-pillar" method of extraction is used. The ore is extracted by large excavators and is then ground into fine particles. The potassium chloride is recovered by flotation.

Canada exports as much as 95 per cent of the potash produced in Saskatchewan. The United States absorbs 70 per cent of it, and most of the remainder is sent to Japan, Korea, Brazil, China, India and Australia.

Despite annual fluctuations, it is expected that the world demand for potash will increase in the coming years at an annual rate of 3 to 4 per cent. Thus Canada will continue to expand its existing mines and will open new ones, mainly in New Brunswick.

Aluminum

The usefulness and adaptability of aluminum make it perfectly suited to the needs of the construction and transportation industries, including the aeronautical industry, because of its excellent resistance-weight relationship. In addition, the food industry relies heavily upon aluminum containers and foil, because aluminum is chemically very stable and does not react to foods.

Canada is the world's fourth producer of aluminum ingots. Quebec has about 75 per cent of Canada's foundry capacity, and British Columbia about 25 per cent.

Aluminum is the only metal produced in Canada that is not derived from Canadian ore. Before the aluminum for world markets can be produced, Canada must import the bauxite or refine alumina and then process it. The aluminum industry requires much electricity and has been established in Canada because of the abundant, economical sources of hydroelectric power available here.

Canada is the world's main exporter and ships 60 per cent of all the aluminum, from the first stage of refining, to the United States. Japan is the second-largest buyer, followed by China, Israel, Thailand and Brazil.

Over the next ten years, it is expected that the consumption of aluminum will increase on an average of slightly less than 4 per cent yearly. This forecast is welcomed by the Canadian aluminum industry, since the low cost of electricity here will encourage the construction of aluminum and electrolysis plants. The continuing demand in the packaging, trans-