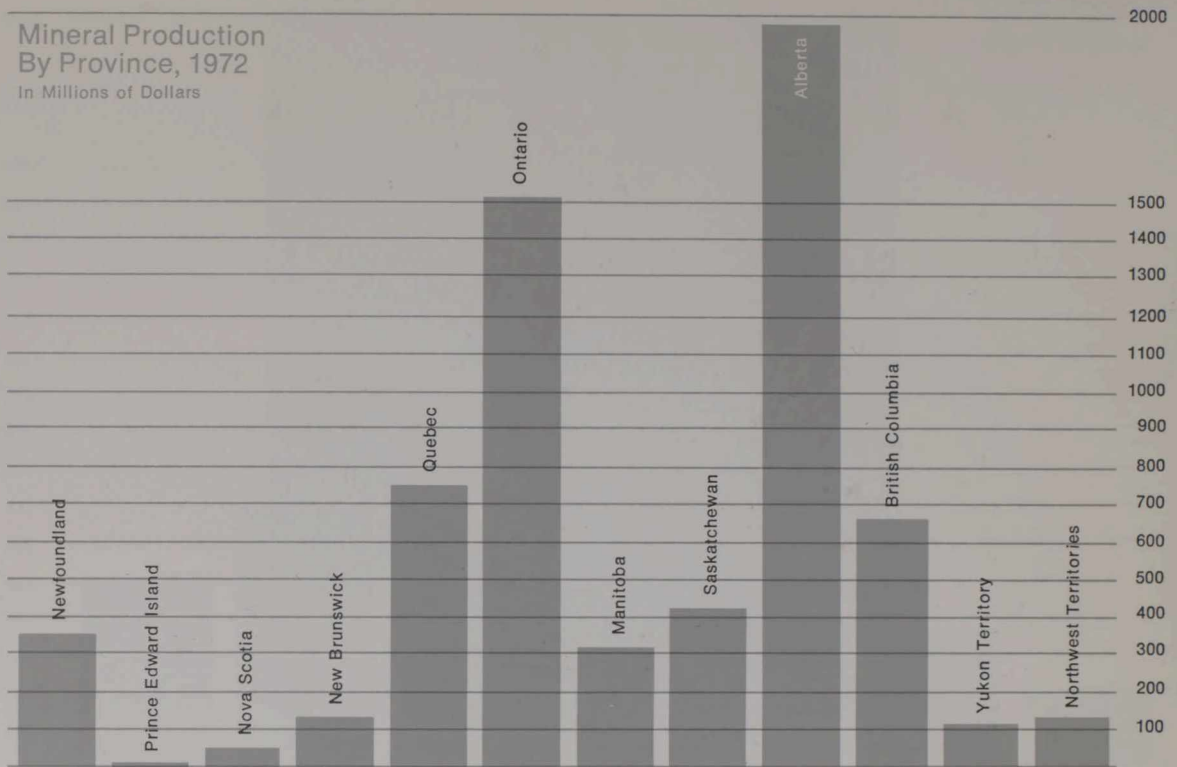


Mineral Production By Province, 1972

In Millions of Dollars



built the town of Thompson on the muskeg of northern Manitoba, on the banks of the Burntwood River. It is the largest nickel producing installation in the non-communist world, and it is a shiny new town with rows of neat homes and a population of 17,000. Inuvik is on the mouth of the Mackenzie and it has excellent elementary and high schools for the Indian, Eskimo and white children who live in the barren region. There are many more new ones being built all the time. Yellow Knife is the new capital city of the Northwest Territories; Fort McPherson and Fort Smith are no longer simple outposts. A great many of the white Canadians in the far north are emigrants from Western Europe, almost as new to Canada as they are to the north. Their adjustment seems relatively painless; the high wages give them an economic base in their new country and many, perhaps most, plan to move to other places and other jobs as their bank accounts grow and as their grasp of English or French improves.

The question of the Eskimos and the Indians and their futures seems less easily resolved. The Government has extensive plans to give the native peoples caught up in the swirl new homes, new schools and possibly better lives. It is by no means certain that the Eskimos and the Indians will accept the gesture. Some apparently accept the enormous changes by choice—dozens of Eskimos work on the Great Slave Railway, as brakemen or engineers. But a great many, par-

ticularly unmarried men not held in place by family responsibilities, eventually return to their native life.

The threat of pollution is complex. Old-fashioned pollution is caused by old-fashioned hard rock mining—the earth is ripped up, vegetation destroyed, water sources contaminated, the air poisoned and animal habitations demolished. For this type of pollution there are rather obvious solutions. The Mines Branch of the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources sent a task force to seventy-seven mines and plant sites in 1971 to find what problems existed and what solutions were contemplated. They reported that the Canadian mining industry planned to spend \$450 to \$500 million toward environmental control by 1975. Virtually all new mining developments in Canada now operate within a total environmental control concept. Before a new mine can begin operating, the government must approve detailed plans for environmental control and eventual land reclamation.

Other pollution problems center around oil, specifically its transportation by tanker or pipeline. Pipelines through permafrost areas could permanently alter the ecological balance of the region; huge tankers and the probable oil spills along the West Coast could severely damage the flora, fauna and waterways of that beautiful, unspoiled area.

The question of ownership is perhaps the most
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