

Cartier employees supported the strike action by those at the Gagnon mine and concentrator, all shipments from Quebec Cartier Mining Company ceased during the strike. Therefore, while production for 1972 is forecast at 44 million tons, down 1.7 million from 1971, shipments are expected to pick up in the latter part of the year because of possible increased rates of steel production in the United States, Western Europe and Japan, Canada's three major markets for iron ore.

Taking all factors into consideration, total shipments for 1972 are expected to increase by about two million tons from 1971 to about 45 million, consisting of 35 million tons of exports and slightly over ten million tons of domestic shipments. Shipments should exceed production for the year by about one million tons, and stocks will decrease accordingly.

Iron-ore shipments in 1975 are expected to reach 65 million tons, composed of 53.4 million tons of exports and 11.6 million of domestic shipments. The export estimate will be realized if Canada increases its share of the market in the United States, Britain and Western Europe and begins major shipments to Japan from new or expanded facilities in Quebec and Labrador. Iron-ore plants under construction or planned as of 1971 will add some 34.67 million tons of production capacity a year by 1976. On the negative side, production may decline or be discontinued at some mines in the same period. Gains in annual capacity will far outweigh any losses in the years ahead.

Annual shipments totalling 90 million tons, composed of 74 million tons of exports and 16 million tons of domestic shipments, are expected for 1980. The estimate for exports may appear high, but the 74 million tons as a share of the total potential world market, or 15 per cent, is only slightly above the estimated 13 per cent recorded in 1970, when Canadian exports reached their peak. The principal factors that could account for this growth include: the inability of new and traditional world sources to meet the increasing demand for beneficiated high-grade ore; the proximity of Canada's large beneficiating-grade iron-ore deposits to the United States and Europe; the existence of deepwater ports on the St. Lawrence River, enabling concentrates and pellets to compete in major markets, particularly Japan; the existence of mine infrastructure that facilitates expansion or new building; and continuing favourable political and fiscal policies. The United States will continue to be the largest market, with 32 million tons, followed by Japan with 20 million tons, the ECSC with 13 million, and Britain with nine million; the domestic market should absorb about 16.4 million tons. It is expected that the total annual capacity will be approximately 105 million tons by the end of 1980.

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