

4.—Non-Metallic Minerals.

1.—Coal.

The fuel situation of Canada is somewhat anomalous, as in spite of the enormous resources of coal in the country, about 50 p.c. of the consumption is imported from the United States. The Canadian coal areas are situated in the eastern and western provinces, while Ontario and Quebec are more easily and economically supplied with coal from the nearer coal fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio.¹ The anomaly of this situation is heightened if we consider that Canada's present coal consumption is about 35,000,000 tons annually, as against reserves of 1,234,289,000,000 metric tons, sufficient for an unthinkable long period at the present rate of consumption.

The coal production in 1923 amounted to 16,990,571 tons, valued at \$72,058,986, or an average of \$4.33 per ton. This represented an increase of 1,833,140 tons or 7.8 p.c. in quantity as compared with the previous year. The production was obtained by mines in which were employed on an average 30,300 men at a wage cost of approximately \$42,321,990. Referring to production during 1923, Alberta held the first place among the coal-producing provinces with an output of 6,854,397 tons; Nova Scotia followed closely with 6,597,838 tons; the output of coal from the mines of British Columbia and Yukon amounted to 2,823,619 tons, while Saskatchewan mined 438,100 tons and New Brunswick 276,617 tons. The quantity of coal mined annually in five provinces and the Yukon Territory, from 1909 to 1923, is shown comparatively in Table 27.

27.—Production of Coal in Canada, by Provinces, calendar years 1909-1923.

Years.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Saskatchewan.	Alberta.	British Columbia	Yukon Territory.	Total production.	Value.
	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	\$
1909.....	5,652,089	49,029	192,125	1,994,741	2,606,127	7,364	10,501,475	24,781,236
1910.....	6,431,142	55,455	181,156	2,894,469	3,330,745	16,185	12,909,152	30,909,779
1911.....	7,004,420	55,781	206,779	1,511,036	2,542,532	2,840	11,323,388	26,467,646
1912.....	7,783,888	44,780	225,342	3,240,577	3,208,997	9,245	14,512,829	36,019,044
1913.....	7,980,073	70,311	212,897	4,014,755	2,714,420	19,722	15,012,178	37,334,940
1914.....	7,370,924	98,049	232,299	3,683,015	2,239,799	13,443	13,637,529	33,471,801
1915.....	7,463,370	127,391	240,107	3,360,818	2,065,613	9,724	13,267,023	32,111,182
1916.....	6,912,140	143,540	281,300	4,559,054	2,584,061	3,300	14,483,395	38,817,481
1917.....	6,327,091	189,095	355,445	4,736,368	2,433,888	4,872	14,046,759	43,199,831
1918.....	5,818,562	268,212	346,847	5,972,816	2,568,589	2,900	14,977,926	55,192,896
1919.....	5,720,373	179,108	380,169	4,964,535	2,435,933	1,100	13,681,218	54,413,349
1920.....	6,395,545	161,164	349,860	6,859,346	2,856,920	763	16,623,598	77,326,853
1921.....	5,734,928	188,192	335,632	5,909,217	2,890,291	233	15,057,262	72,451,656
1922.....	5,569,072	287,513	382,437	5,990,911	2,927,033	465	15,157,431	65,518,497
1923.....	6,597,838	276,617	438,100	6,854,397	2,823,306	313	16,990,571	72,058,986

The total coal imports in the calendar year 1923 amounted to 22,687,320 tons, as compared with 14,257,424 tons in the previous year. The exports of coal of domestic production in 1923 amounted to 1,654,406 tons, valued at \$10,661,399, or an average of \$6.44 per ton, as compared with 1,818,582 tons, valued at \$11,159,060, in 1922. The imports of anthracite and bituminous coal for fiscal years from 1901 to 1924 are given in Table 30, and the exports from 1903 to 1924 in Table 31.

¹ See map showing sources of Canada's coal supply, p. 386 of 1922-23 Year Book.