

**Coal.**—Three locations may be applied for by mail or in person; the size of a location may be from 40 acres to 640 acres, but the length must not exceed three times the breadth. All operators must be licensed by the Coal Administrator, the licence being contingent upon payment of fair wages, workmen's compensation assessments, rentals and royalties to the Crown, and certain other conditions. Operators must mine annually 5 tons per acre, on leases issued since Jan. 1, 1936.

**Petroleum and Natural Gas.**—Locations may be applied for by mail or in person. The area of a location may be from 40 acres to 19,200 acres, and one person may apply for 3 locations, but not over 19,200 acres in all, except in unsurveyed lands, in which the limit is 1,920 acres. An operator must obtain a permit and furnish a substantial bond. All drillers must secure licences of competency. The record of a driller may be obtained by payment of a fee.

**Alberta.**—*Administration.*—Department of Lands and Mines, Edmonton. There is a staff of inspectors of mines. *Legislation.*—The Provincial Lands Act, 1931; the Oil and Gas Wells Act, 1931; the Oil and Gas Resources Conservation Act, 1938; the Coal Mines Regulations Act; the Coal Sales Act; and the Coal Miners Wage Security Act.

The fuels—coal, natural gas, and petroleum—constitute the most important mineral resources of Alberta.

**Coal.**—All coal rights are disposed of under terminable leases at an annual rental of \$1 per acre and subject to a royalty of 5 cts. per short ton on production. The minimum area is 40 acres and the maximum 640. New leases are granted only for the continuation of existing operations or in the few instances for purely local needs if the locality cannot be economically supplied by existing mines. The Chief Inspector of Mines with a staff of mine inspectors administers the regulations for the safe operation of all mines, sets examinations, approves and issues certificates of competency to operating officials, requires all companies to register their trade name and sell coal under their registered name, and also requires all coal operators to provide bond to insure payment of wages.

**Petroleum and Natural Gas.**—Areas of from 10,000 to 50,000 acres in a block may be placed under reservation for geological exploration for 45 days for a fee of 5 cts. per acre. If monthly reports prove that the work is being diligently carried on, extensions up to a total of six months may be granted. Provided the work has been satisfactorily completed and all geological reports filed, leases may be applied for. The applicant may be granted a credit to be applied on lease rentals of part of the expenditure in excess of 20 cts. per acre.

Applications for leases must be made in person. The minimum area is 160 acres and the maximum 1,920. Leases are issued for a period of 21 years, renewable for a further 21 years, at a rental of \$1 an acre per year, and a royalty of 10 p.c. on the product of the location.

The drilling and production operations, and the production from oil and gas wells is controlled by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board under very complete regulations based on sound engineering practice and waste prevention. Drilling sites must be approved. In producing oil fields the Board issues monthly orders giving the production allowable for each well, based on bottom hole pressure, gas-oil ratio, acreage, and rate of flow. The Board may levy a tax on petroleum property to cover administration costs.