

From 1923 to 1939 Canada produced no recorded output of iron ore. In 1937, as a result of legislation providing for an Ontario Government subsidy, development of the New Helen mine in the Michipicoten District was begun. First shipment of the sintered ore was made in July, 1939. Substantial production has since been maintained, and in 1945 a neighbouring property, the Josephine Mine, will come into production, its product to be marketed in conjunction with that of the New Helen Mine sinter. Another large iron-ore development, at Steep Rock Lake, west of Port Arthur, was begun in 1943 and the first shipment from this property was made in October, 1944 (see pp. 312-313). During 1943, an open-pit iron-ore mine at Bathurst, N.B., was operated, its product going to the blast furnaces at Sydney, N.S.; operations were suspended in November, 1943.

Petroleum development has been stimulated by the Oil Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply in co-operation with the Department of Mines and Resources, and by a Crown Company, Wartime Oils Limited, operating under the direction of the Control. The Company, incorporated on Apr. 4, 1943, with head office at Calgary, Alberta, has assisted in drilling marginal sites on the west flank in Township 19 of the Turner Valley, and so far has confined its activities to advancing money to operators for drilling. While it was intended that operators could supply a part of the necessary funds, the Crown Company has advanced all of the funds for the whole of the drilling and well equipment. The area being explored has been checked by a geologist of the Oil Control.

Still another Government agency, the Emergency Coal Production Board, operating in co-operation with the Coal Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply, has extended financial assistance to coal operators with a view to increasing production. In addition to this assistance to normal commercial producers, the Board has developed surface-stripping operations in Alberta. The Dominion Fuel Board (see p. 318) for nearly two decades has maintained a close study of the coal-mining industry and has administered various measures of governmental assistance; this Board and its staff are operating under the Coal Control for the duration of the War. Previous to March, 1943, the Dominion Fuel Board co-operated closely with the Coal Administrator of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board but, at that date, the Coal Administrator's functions were combined with those of the Coal Controller under the Department of Munitions and Supply.

To conserve petroleum and coal gas for war production, the Power Controller of the Department of Munitions and Supply issued a series of orders from February to September, 1942, which caused thousands of owners of buildings, including dwellings, to switch from gas to coal for heating and steam production.

Subsection 2.—General Statistics of Mineral Production

Historical Statistics.—Definite records of the annual value of mineral production go back only to 1886, although actual production began with the earliest settlements. The figures given in Table 1 are not strictly comparable throughout the whole period, minor changes having been adopted in methods of computing both the metallic content of ores sold and the valuations of the products. Earlier methods resulted in a somewhat higher value than those now in use would have shown. However, the changes do not interfere with the general usefulness of the figures in showing the broad trends in the mineral industry.