

Bounties.—Government bounties or subsidies for protective duties on various minerals have been paid in the past years; for further details see p. 585 of this volume.

Government Control.—The operation of various Government agencies during the War to stimulate production of major non-ferrous metals, petroleum and coal were reviewed in the Canada Year Book 1945, pp. 295-296.

The Metals Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply was dissolved at the end of November, 1945. The Oil Control, and the Crown Company, War-time Oils Limited which operated under its direction, were likewise dissolved at the same time.

The Emergency Coal Production Board, operating in co-operation with the Coal Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply, continued throughout 1945 to extend 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. 315) 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.

In 1943, anticipating a severe shortage of domestic coal supplies in Western Canada, six strip mines were opened by companies set up for the purpose under the supervision of the Board's consulting engineer, financed by Government funds and under the management of experienced operators. It was felt that these operations would serve as: (a) sources of supply to fill shortages that the established underground mines could not fill; and (b) insurance against emergencies and to fill distress calls.

Modern buildings and equipment including tipples, machinery, roads, spur tracks, etc., were installed at all projects in order to facilitate the handling, loading, screening, etc., of the coal.

The Power Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply retained in force, through the 1945-46 burning season, a series of orders that had been issued in 1942, restricting the use of gas in southwestern Ontario.

Section 2.—Summary of Mineral Production

A special article on the Development of Canada's Mineral Resources in Relation to the Present War Effort, so far as this development had taken place by the middle of 1940, appears at pp. 298-309 of the 1940 Year Book.

The importance of mineral production as compared with other primary industries in Canada is indicated in Chapter VII while its part in the external trade of Canada is dealt with in Chapter XVI, Part II, especially Section 3, Subsections 2 and 5.

Subsection 1.—Value and Volume 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.