

to the existence, thickness, quality and continuity of the coal seams over much of this extensive district, any estimates as to the available coal must be regarded as only rough approximations. The coal mined in 1945, most of which came from the Estevan area, amounted to 1,533,142 tons.

The Belly River formation of Upper Cretaceous age contains seams of lignite which outcrop at widely separated areas in western Saskatchewan, and especially along the valley of the South Saskatchewan River. The seams range in thickness from a few inches up to a maximum recorded thickness of 11 feet of dirty coal, but as yet, no seams have been discovered that are sufficiently thick or of sufficient purity to be mined profitably, and until such deposits are discovered, the coal seams should not be regarded as available reserves.

Alberta.—Alberta contains by far the largest reserves of coal of any of the provinces of Canada. The deposits occur in the following six geological formations: the Kootenay and Luscar formations of Lower Cretaceous age; the Foremost and Oldman formations of the Belly River series, and the Edmonton formation all of Upper Cretaceous age; and the Coalspur beds of Tertiary Paleocene age. The coal deposits of the Province have been arranged by the Provincial Government into 50 coal areas, which may be conveniently grouped into 4 main classes. These are: (1) Coal deposits of Lower Cretaceous age of the Inner Foothills Belt; (2) Coal deposits of Upper Cretaceous and Tertiary Paleocene ages of the Outer Foothills Belt; (3) Coal deposits of Foremost and Oldman formations of the Belly River Series of Upper Cretaceous age of the Plains Region; and (4) Coal deposits of the Edmonton formation of Upper Cretaceous age of the Plains Region.

The Lower Cretaceous coal deposits extend along the Rocky Mountain Foothills from the International Boundary to beyond Smoky River, a distance of 460 miles. This belt has been transversely divided into 10 coal areas. Mining of the deposits to date has been largely restricted to where the belt is crossed by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Crowsnest Pass, and along Bow River, and to the Mountain Park and Nordegg areas that are reached by branch lines of the Canadian National Railway. Between these areas there are large reserves of coal that have not as yet been mined. The coals mined at Blairmore, Bellevue, Coleman and Carbondale in the Crowsnest Pass, and at Mountain Park, Cadomin and Luscar in the Mountain Park district, are largely of Medium Volatile and High Volatile "A" Bituminous ranks. On the other hand, those being mined at Canmore and at Nordegg are of Low Volatile Bituminous rank. The total production in 1945 amounted to 3,460,736 tons.

The coal deposits of the Outer Foothills Belt occur in narrow bands of Belly River and Edmonton formations of Upper Cretaceous age, and in the Coalspur beds of Tertiary Paleocene age. This coal-bearing Belt extends from near the International boundary north to beyond the Canadian National Railway at Entrance, a distance of 370 miles. The Belt has been divided transversely into 7 coal areas, which from north to south are Prairie Creek, Coalspur, Saunders, Red Deer, Morley, Pekisko and Pincher Creek. The production from these deposits in 1945 amounted to 678,803 tons, 616,000 tons of which was mined in the Coalspur district. These coals were formerly designated as sub-bituminous coals, but are now classified as High Volatile "C" Bituminous.

The coal deposits of the Outer Plains Region belong largely to the Foremost and Oldman formations of the Belly River series of Upper Cretaceous age. They occur in 18 of the coal areas of Alberta. The production from these areas in 1945 amounted to 937,311 tons, the 3 main producing areas being Lethbridge, Taber