

to warrant such a policy at this time. However, the Government has granted the West Coast Transmission Company Limited permission to export a stipulated volume of gas from the Peace River area over a period of years and the Company plans to construct a pipe line from the area to Vancouver.

About 95 p.c. of Alberta's output of natural gas comes from five fields—Turner Valley, Viking-Kinsella, Leduc, Jumping Pound and Medicine Hat-Redcliff—all of which are connected by pipe line to local markets. Discoveries of commercial importance were made here and there throughout the Province in 1951, some of which resulted in important extensions to previously known fields, particularly around Medicine Hat, Provost and Bonneyville, while others resulted in the establishment of potential new gas areas. Many of the discoveries were capped pending market outlets. Production in 1951 reached a record 64,112,000 Mcf., compared with 58,604,000 Mcf. in 1950.

In some of the fields the natural gas has a relatively high content of hydrogen sulphide and this has led to the construction of plants by two companies to recover elemental sulphur from the gas in these fields. One of these, Royalite Oil Company Limited, has a \$350,000 sulphur plant at Turner Valley which will have a capacity of about 10,000 tons of elemental sulphur a year. Shell Oil Company of Canada Limited brought a plant of the same capacity into operation early in 1952 at Jumping Pound.

Besides being by far the leading Canadian producer of crude oil and natural gas, Alberta is well in the lead also in the production of coal and in 1951 contributed about 41 p.c. of the total Canadian output. About 60 p.c. of the output of 7,750,000 tons was bituminous and 39 p.c. sub-bituminous and lignite, mainly the former.

Strip mining of the coal is being practised to an increasing extent and at present about 40 p.c. of the output is so mined. The reduced labour requirements for this method are apparent from the fact that the average output from strip-mining operations per man-day in 1951 was 9 tons compared with 3.49 tons from underground mining. The continued development and improvement of the machinery used in strip mining has greatly increased the available coal for stripping and has increased the ratio of coal that may be stripped within economic limits.

In Alberta, as elsewhere in Canada, the coal industry has been continuing its efforts to improve the quality of its products. To this end, fluidized dryers for drying fine coal have been successfully introduced in the Province, with three such units in the Crowsnest area and one in the Mountain Park area. Pneumatic cleaning plants have been installed in the Coalspur and Drumheller areas, and in the Nordegg area a complete new plant has been constructed to clean all sizes retained on a quarter-inch screen. All the output of the plant is briquetted for railway locomotive and domestic use.

In value, crude petroleum, coal and natural gas, in that order, accounted for close to 95 p.c. of Alberta's mineral output in 1951 and cement, sand and gravel, and clay products for most of the remainder. The ordinary red-burning brick and structural and drain tile are produced from clays and shales obtained within the Province; the higher grade products such as sewer pipe, pottery and stoneware are made from Saskatchewan clays.

Saskatchewan.—Mining and related developments have also been active in Saskatchewan, particularly in connection with uranium and crude petroleum. As a result of the numerous discoveries of uranium ores, Saskatchewan bids strong to become a leading world source of these much-needed ores. The discoveries are in