

The Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria is devoted to fundamental research into the physical characteristics of the sun, stars, planets and the material of interstellar space. The 73-inch reflecting telescope is one of the largest in the world and through its use many important contributions have been made to astronomical knowledge.

The Geographical Branch.—The primary function of the Geographical Branch is to organize and make available all the geographical data on Canada and on foreign countries that might be of use in promoting the economic, commercial and social welfare of Canada. Work undertaken by the Branch is of two kinds—the compilation of geographical material of national significance, and geographical surveys in the field. An important project currently in hand is the compilation of an Atlas of Canada.

The Dominion Coal Board.—The Dominion Coal Board was created in October 1947 (11 Geo. VI, c. 57), the functions and duties of which are clearly defined in the Act. The Board is charged with the responsibility of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Coal and the Act specifically states that it may undertake researches and investigations with respect to:—

- (1) the systems and methods of mining coal;
- (2) the problems and techniques of marketing and distributing coal;
- (3) the physical and chemical characteristics of coal produced in Canada with a view to developing new uses therefor;
- (4) the position of coal in relation to other forms of fuel or energy available for use in Canada;
- (5) the cost of production and distribution of coal and the accounting methods adopted or used by persons dealing in coal;
- (6) the co-ordination of the activities of Government Departments relating to coal;
- (7) such other matters as the Minister may request or as the Board may deem necessary for carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this Act.

Transportation assistance to extend the markets for Canadian coal was made available to the amount of \$3,018,189 in the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, and 2,699,615 tons of coal were moved under this subvention during the year. Expenditures under the Coke Bounty Act providing a subsidy on Canadian coal used in the manufacture of coke for metallurgical purposes amounted to \$424,725. The amount of coal bonused was 858,031 tons.

The Board continued its studies on problems relating to coal research and of other organizations engaged in the production and distribution of solid fuels.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Government Aid*

Nova Scotia.—Under the provisions of the Mines Act (14 Geo. VI, S.N.S., c. 3), the Government of Nova Scotia may assist a mining company or operator in the sinking of shafts, slopes, deeps and winzes and the driving of adits, tunnels, crosscuts, raises and levels. This assistance may take the form of work performed under contract, the payment of bills for materials and labour, or the guarantee of bank loans. Any such work must be approved by the Department of Mines. The Government is also authorized to assist the mining industry to procure power on the most economical basis, and may guarantee the Nova Scotia Power Commission against any loss incurred on account of capital investments made for that purpose

* Information supplied by the Departments of Mines or Mines Branches of the various provinces.