

18.—Quantities and Values of Sulphur Produced, 1942-51

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1926-41 are given at p. 355 of the 1946 Year Book.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
1942.....	303,714	1,994,891	1947.....	221,781	1,822,867
1943.....	257,515	1,753,425	1948.....	229,463	1,836,358
1944.....	248,088	1,755,739	1949.....	261,871	2,039,384
1945.....	250,114	1,881,321	1950.....	301,172	2,189,660
1946.....	234,771	1,784,666	1951 ^p	368,529	3,005,714

Subsection 5.—Production of Fuels

Information on the coal reserves of Canada is given in the Year Book 1950, pp. 516-518.

CANADIAN CRUDE PETROLEUM SITUATION*

The mineral industry in Canada has shown a rapid and very substantial expansion during the past few years but no part of it has quite equalled the spectacular developments that have resulted from the major discoveries of petroleum and natural gas in Western Canada. During World War II the tempo of exploration was speeded up by the need for oil products and by the encouragement given to the search for new supplies through tax concessions granted by the Federal Government. At that time Turner Valley in the foothills of the Rockies, 35 miles southwest of Calgary, was the main producing field, a peak production of about 29,000 bbl. a day having been reached in 1942. This was not sufficient to supply the military and restricted civilian requirements of the Prairie Provinces, where light oil was needed particularly for refining into products required by the Commonwealth air-training project. However, some small fields were found and, in the light of present events, two occurrences were of major significance although not recognized as such at the time. The first of these was the discovery in 1944 of light crude oil in the Devonian limestones at Princess, on the plains, 100 miles east of Calgary. This was the first discovery of Devonian oil in Alberta. The second was the development, through the Canol project, of the Norman Wells field in the Mackenzie River Valley, 50 miles south of the Arctic circle. This field was found in 1920 also in Devonian rocks but, owing to lack of markets for the oil, there had been no significant development. Under the Canol project many wells were drilled and it was recognized that the productive horizon was a coral reef. The Princess field is 1,150 miles distant from Norman Wells and although both were yielding oil from the Devonian, no special significance was attached to this fact at that time.

The discovery of the Leduc field southwest of Edmonton in 1947 completely changed the whole oil aspect in Western Canada. The oil at Leduc, like that at Norman Wells, was found in a Devonian coral reef. United States oil companies in particular were very familiar with coral-reef production in the Permian basin of West Texas and New Mexico and quickly recognized the significance of the new Leduc discovery. Consequently, the Leduc discovery, both from its character and the size of the possible productive area, attracted more than usual attention

* Prepared by Dr. G. S. Hume, Director-General of Scientific Services, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.