

bituminous non-coking coals in several areas of the foothills, subbituminous coal in the Drumheller, Edmonton, Brooks, Camrose, Castor and Carbon areas, and coal on the border of subbituminous and lignite is produced in the Tofield and Redcliff areas. The Cascade area was the only field that produced semi-anthracite in 1952.

The coal industry continued its mechanization of surface and underground operations with the twofold objective of reducing production costs and of producing better-quality coal for marketing. Increasing attention was paid to the production of prepared coal such as briquettes and fabriccoal for which there is a growing demand. Over 37 p.c. of the output was strip mined in 1952, a 5-p.c. decrease from 1951 owing partly to the closing of nine strip mines.

The presence of large quantities of natural gas in the Province has assisted greatly in the expansion of output of some of the industrial minerals. Sulphur was produced during the period for the first time in Alberta's history when Shell Oil Company of Canada began to recover, early in 1952, elemental sulphur at a rate of about 10,000 tons annually from the scrubbing of sour natural gas from the Jumping Pound field. The gas contains about 3.5 p.c. by volume of hydrogen sulphide and a 90-p.c. recovery of the sulphur is made. Royalite Oil Company Limited began the recovery of from 9,000 to 10,000 tons of elemental sulphur annually from a similar plant in its Turner Valley gas field in June 1952.

The Province possesses a steadily expanding clay-products industry which is centred mainly in the Medicine Hat area close to supplies of natural gas. Brick and tile products are made from clays and shales obtained within the Province. However, clays are imported from Saskatchewan for the production of sewer pipe, stoneware, etc., and from the United States for the production of tableware. The output of clay products in 1952 was valued at \$2,151,000 compared with \$1,788,000 in 1951.

Alberta also produces salt, cement and structural materials. Canada Cement Company Limited installed new kilns in its wet-process plant at Exshaw which contributed largely to the increase in the output of cement from 1,649,909 bbl. valued at \$3,898,043 in 1951 to 1,748,305 bbl. valued at \$4,388,245 in 1952.

**Saskatchewan.**—Developments in crude oil, natural gas and uranium have made the period covered by this review one of the most significant and fruitful in Saskatchewan's mining history. However, owing mainly to a decrease in production from the Flin Flon deposits that straddle the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary, the Province's mineral production decreased to a value of \$48,647,000 in 1952 compared with \$51,033,000 in 1951.

The search for oil and gas and other related developments reached a new high with expenditures amounting to upwards of \$40,000,000 in 1952 compared with \$20,000,000 in 1951. Developments taking place in the crude petroleum field are dealt with at p. 542. Proven reserves of natural gas rose to nearly 225,000,000,000 cu. feet by the end of February 1953. Production, which comes from the Unity, Brock and Lloydminster-Lone Rock fields, increased from 860,000,000 cu. feet in 1951 to 950,000,000 cu. feet in 1952. Several discoveries were made in the Coleville-Brock area. The Brock field, which was discovered in 1951 and to which extensions were made in 1952, appears to be the largest and most favourable gas reserve so far found in the Province. A distribution system using gas from the Brock field and serving the town of Kindersley and the village of Brock was constructed during the review period and plans were made to build a pipeline from the field to Saskatoon.