

earth's interior. Gravity observations are carried on throughout Canada with a generally similar purpose, special attention being paid to methods of locating mineral deposits.

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 function of the 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. The work is of two kinds—the compilation of geographical material of national significance, and geographical surveys in the field. The chief project at present is the compilation, in co-operation with various Departments of the Federal Government, of a new Atlas of Canada to replace the Atlas issued in 1915.

The Dominion Coal Board.—The Dominion Coal Board was established by the Dominion Coal Board Act (R.S.C. 1952, c. 86) which was proclaimed on Oct. 21, 1947. By this Act, the Board was constituted a Department of Government to advise on all matters relating to the production, importation, distribution and use of coal in Canada. The Board is also charged with the responsibility of advising upon and administering transportation subventions.

Ancillary to these principal duties, the Board is empowered to undertake research 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 the Act.

In addition, the Dominion Coal Board Act provides authority in the case of a national fuel emergency to ensure that adequate supplies of fuel are made available to meet Canadian requirements.

Assistance by transportation subventions, which has been maintained in varying degrees during the past twenty-four years, was designed to further the movement of Canadian coals to some portions of Central Canada by equalizing as far as possible the laid-down costs of Canadian coals with imported coals. As these costs and the conditions of the Canadian coal industry are subject to variation, the Board must review from time to time the rates of subvention and the areas where the assistance is required. The Orders in Council presently governing assistance on the shipment of coals from the several coal-producing provinces are as follows: Nova Scotia—P.C. 3253 of June 11, 1952, as amended; New Brunswick—P.C. 3252 of June 11, 1952; Saskatchewan—P.C. 912 of Feb. 21, 1951, as amended; Alberta and Crownsnest Pass area of British Columbia—P.C. 1953-64 of Jan. 16, 1953. In addition, Order