

The industry's efforts to improve the quality of its products have been concentrated on the application of modern methods of beneficiation such as cleaning, drying and the briquetting of fines. During the review period the manufacture of briquettes increased in Western Canada particularly in the Mountain Park, Cascade and Crowsnest areas of Alberta, where briquettes suitable for locomotive use are prepared from coal fines. The production of these briquettes has aided materially in retaining some of the railway market. In 1953 the railways absorbed, for locomotive use, over 81 p.c. of the 708,493 tons of briquettes produced in Canada that year. A new plant for the manufacture of these briquettes was put into operation in the East Kootenay area of British Columbia.

Interest also increased in the possible production of briquettes for use in both domestic and industrial stokers, and an investigation into these possibilities was started at the Mines Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.—Nova Scotia produces high and medium volatile bituminous coking coals in the Sydney, Cumberland and Pictou areas and some non-coking bituminous from the Inverness area. Production in 1953 amounted to 5,787,000 tons compared with 5,905,000 tons in 1952, and accounted for 77 p.c. of the total value of the Province's mineral output in 1953. Most of the major operations are completely mechanized. However, as much of the production comes from submarine workings, operators are faced with the problem of increasingly high transportation costs. To overcome this and to increase output, Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Limited, the largest operator, is building a 6,225-foot inclined tunnel into its workings at Glace Bay. The tunnel will be equipped with a belt-conveyor system to bring the coal to the surface with a single-track road for use in transporting men and material to and from the surface by rope haulage.

The Geological Survey of Canada continued to carry out coal research investigations at its Sydney office with a view to assisting development and prolonging the productive life of the Sydney coalfield. The office is operated in co-operation with the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation.

Output in New Brunswick is a high volatile bituminous coal from the Minto area. In 1953, it amounted to 721,000 tons compared with 743,000 tons in 1952.

Most of the coal produced in the Maritimes is used locally for industrial and domestic purposes; the remainder is shipped to Ontario and Quebec.

Saskatchewan.—Saskatchewan produces only lignite coal, chiefly from the Bienfait division of the Souris area, the main producing fields being the Estevan and Roche Percee divisions. Production in 1953 totalled 2,000,000 tons, a decline of 62,000 tons from 1952. Approximately 65 p.c. of the output was shipped to Manitoba for domestic and industrial use.

Alberta.—Alberta produces almost all types of coal including a small tonnage of semi-anthracite. Production in 1953 dropped to 5,917,000 tons from 7,195,000 tons in 1952. About 59 p.c. of the output was bituminous and the remainder mainly subbituminous and lignite. Coking bituminous coal ranging from high to low volatile is produced in the Crowsnest, Nordegg and Mountain Park areas. Another large bituminous mine in the Mountain Park area was closed leaving the area with only one operating property. This mine and the one remaining operating mine in the Nordegg area are almost entirely dependent upon the continued use of coal by the