

Lower-rank bituminous non-coking coals are produced in the Lethbridge and Coalspur areas and in several other areas of the foothills. The coal in the Drumheller, Edmonton, Brooks, Camrose, Castor and Carbon areas is subbituminous and that in the Tofield, Redcliff and several other areas is on the border of subbituminous and lignite. All these lower-rank coals were used mainly for household and commercial purposes but their industrial use is increasing, especially in thermal power production.

Production declined in the province from 4,328,787 tons in 1956 to 3,156,546 tons in 1957. Since the discovery of the Leduc oil field in 1947, coal output has dropped by almost 61 p.c. About 60 p.c. of the 1957 output was subbituminous coal. The production of bituminous coal decreased by about 39 p.c. and that of subbituminous coal by about 17 p.c. Average value of bituminous coal was \$6.466 per ton and subbituminous \$4.864. During 1957 a large producing mine was closed down in the Lethbridge area.

The output of briquettes, which are made from the semi-anthracite and low-volatile bituminous coals of the Cascade area and the medium-volatile bituminous coals of the Crowsnest area, was sharply reduced to 269,147 tons in 1957 compared with 525,202 tons in 1956.

Of the total production of all the coals mined only about 2.2 p.c. was shipped to Central Canada to be used mainly for commercial purposes. About 7.8 p.c., consisting to a large extent of subbituminous coal, was shipped to Manitoba, 21.5 p.c. to Saskatchewan and 21.4 p.c. to British Columbia, for both industrial steam-raising and household use.

*British Columbia.*—Bituminous coking coal, ranging from high to low volatile, is mined on Vancouver Island and in the East Kootenay (Crowsnest), Telkwa and Nicola areas. Small quantities of subbituminous coal are produced in the Princeton field. Mining on Vancouver Island was confined almost entirely to one mine in the Comox area. Production in 1957 amounted to 1,113,699 tons, a decrease from the 1,472,519 tons produced in 1956. The average value of British Columbia bituminous coal was \$5.924 per ton. Of the total production over 19 p.c. was shipped to Manitoba and about 8 p.c. to Ontario.

Medium-temperature oven (by-product) coke for industrial consumption is manufactured chiefly in the Crowsnest area. The single briquetting plant in the province produced over 84,000 tons of railway briquettes in 1957 as against 188,000 tons in 1956. A quantity of coking coal from the Crowsnest area was exported to southwestern United States for blending in the manufacture of metallurgical coke.

## Section 2.—Government Aid to the Mineral Industry\*

### Subsection 1.—Federal Government Aid

**The Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.**—The federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys came into being on Jan. 20, 1950, in the re-organization of the former Department of Mines and Resources. The Department has five branches—Surveys and Mapping Branch, Geological Survey of Canada, Mines Branch, Dominion Observatories, and Geographical Branch. The Department's functions include the administration of the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act and of the Explosives Act.

*Surveys and Mapping Branch.*—The Branch provides the base maps required for use in the development of Canada's natural resources, produces and distributes all Canadian aids to navigation, is responsible for legal surveys of federal lands and provides a national system of levelling and precision surveys for use as geodetic control by federal, provincial and private agencies.

The Geodetic Survey provides the original surveys that form the framework or basic control for mapping throughout Canada and for engineering and surveying projects related to natural resources development. Survey stations are established at fairly regular

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