

In an effort to produce better quality coals of greater versatility, the industry continues to direct attention to the use of modern methods of cleaning, drying, dust- and freeze-proofing, and briquetting. Additional facilities for cleaning and drying various sizes of coal, including fines, have been installed at several collieries in both Eastern and Western Canada.

Assistance is given to the coal industry by the Dominion Coal Board in the movement of coal to competitive markets (see p. 561). During 1958 coal moved under subvention was as follows: from Nova Scotia, 2,370,131 tons; from New Brunswick, 120,963 tons; from Saskatchewan, 297,892 tons; and from Alberta and British Columbia, 216,825 tons—39 p.c. of all the coal produced in Canada. The total was 6.7 p.c. lower than in 1957.

Details on coal in the respective coal-producing provinces follow.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.—Nova Scotia produces high volatile and medium volatile bituminous coking coals in the Sydney, Cumberland and Pictou areas and some non-coking bituminous coal in the St. Rose, Inverness and Port Hood areas (west coast of Cape Breton Island). Production in 1958 was 7.3 p.c. lower than in 1957, amounting to 5,269,879 tons valued at \$9.554 per ton f.o.b. mines. Many of the operations have been mechanized to cut costs and new equipment has been developed to reduce the quantity of slack coal produced. During the year about 13 p.c. of the coal mined in the province was mechanically cleaned.

New Brunswick's coal output comes entirely from a single thin seam (with an average thickness of 18 in.) of high volatile bituminous coal in the Minto area. Output decreased from 976,597 tons in 1957 to 790,719 tons in 1958 valued at \$8.374 per ton. The two cleaning plants established since 1955 allow for the beneficiation of over 34 p.c. of New Brunswick's production. Both plants are equipped with modern mechanical and thermal drying machines permitting the production of uniform quality products.

Much of the output of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is used locally for industrial steam-raising for power production and processing, for household and commercial heating, and for the manufacture of metallurgical coke. In 1958 approximately 41 p.c. of the output was shipped to Central Canada for industrial, commercial and railway use. Of this, more than 95 p.c. originated in Nova Scotia.

Saskatchewan.—This province produces only lignite coal from the Bienfait and Roche Percee fields in the Souris area. Production amounted to 2,253,176 tons in 1958, approximately the same as in 1957, and was valued at \$1.944 per ton at the mine. On the average, this is the cheapest coal per million B.t.u. at 12.64 cents, as against 32.62 cents for all Canadian bituminous coals and 25.79 cents for all subbituminous coals. Slightly less than 52 p.c. of the 1958 output was shipped to Manitoba and about 10 p.c. to Ontario for industrial, commercial and household use.

The output of briquettes, which are made from carbonized lignite and used entirely for household and commercial purposes, increased slightly in 1958 to 41,142 tons.

Alberta.—Almost all types of coal are found in Alberta—semi-anthracite and low volatile bituminous coking coals in the Cascade area, and medium to high volatile bituminous coking coals in the Crowsnest and Mountain Park areas. Owing to the shrinking market, mining has been terminated in the Mountain Park area and has been seriously curtailed in the Crowsnest area. These mines mainly produced industrial steam and railway coals, but also supplied some commercial and household markets. Lower rank bituminous non-coking coals are produced in the Lethbridge and Coalspur areas and in several other areas of the Outer Foothills belt. The coals in the Drumbeller, Edmonton, Brooks, Camrose, Castor, Carbon, Sheerness, Taber, Pembina and Ardley areas are subbituminous and those in the Tofield, Redcliff and several other areas are on the border of subbituminous and lignite. All these lower rank coals are mainly household and commercial coals, but increasing amounts are being used industrially, especially for thermal power production. The strip-mined coals, valued f.o.b. mines at a weighted average of \$2.921 per ton as against a weighted average value of \$7.101 per ton for underground-mined coal, are mainly used for power production.