

Canadian refineries produce at least 85 p.c. of total domestic petroleum product requirements. In 1960, imports of refined petroleum products amounted to 36,000,000 bbl., a decrease of 3,000,000 bbl. from the previous year. Exports of refined petroleum products increased to 3,100,000 bbl. from 2,100,000 bbl. in 1959. Recent refinery construction has resulted in an improvement of Canada's trade position in petroleum products.

Natural Gas Processing and Marketing.—Natural gas is delivered from Western Canada by pipeline as far west as the Pacific Coast and as far east as Montreal. Recently, natural gas has been gaining a larger share of the market for fuels at the expense of coal and oil. In addition, large quantities of natural gas liquids are extracted from natural gas and sold in direct competition in fuel heating markets. Natural gas by-products also find a ready market at petroleum refineries, particularly in areas where the demand for lighter refinery products, such as gasolines, is above average. Sulphur is being extracted from natural gas in growing amounts each year and plant capacity to recover 700,000 tons daily had been installed by the end of 1960 (see pp. 523-524).

Five new gas-processing plants were added during 1960 to bring the total to 37. These have a combined treating capacity for over 2,000 Mcf. of raw gas daily. Canadian natural gas production in 1960 amounted to 504,500,000 Mcf., of which 105,000,000 Mcf. were exported to the United States. During the year, about 6,000,000 Mcf. were imported from the United States. In the Canadian market, Alberta is the largest consumer of natural gas. Its domestic, industrial and commercial requirements in 1960 totalled 138,000,000 Mcf., or 44 p.c. of the total Canadian consumer sales of 314,000,000 Mcf. Consumption in other provinces, on a percentage basis of total sales, was: Ontario 32 p.c., Saskatchewan 9.4 p.c., British Columbia 7.8 p.c., Manitoba 3.4 p.c., and Quebec 3.3 p.c. Natural gas usage in production, processing and transportation accounts for the difference between apparent supply and consumer sales.

Subsection 4.—Coal*

The continued and increasing competition from petroleum, natural gas and imported coal caused further decline in Canada's coal industry in 1959. Greater efforts were made by the industry to meet this competition. Mechanization of underground mining was advanced, especially in the Cape Breton Island coal mines. In the mines of the Dominion Coal Company Limited, the Dosco ripper-type continuous mining machines were modified by equipping them with wedge and shearing bar in order to improve the size consist of the coal. Development work was undertaken for the installation of mechanical mining in a small underground mine in New Brunswick working on an 18-inch coal seam.

Greater care and attention in the operation of mining equipment and increased coal preparation facilities are expected to improve the over-all quality of Canadian coals. Additional facilities for cleaning and drying various sizes of coal, in particular fine coal, were put in operation at various collieries in both Eastern and Western Canada. The implementing of quality control measures through coal sampling and analysis at various collieries should lead to greater customer satisfaction with coal as a fuel.

Assistance to the coal industry was given by the federal and provincial governments through research programs in co-operation with industrial organizations. The problem of fine coal production and disposal received much attention and research was directed toward improved mining methods and beneficiation by cleaning and briquetting. Development of new and modified combustion equipment was undertaken with greater efficiency and versatility in view. Through continued programs of sampling and analysis of marketable coal, the governments aided the industry in their efforts to maintain quality control. Surveys were made of the coking properties of coals in relation to their preparation for export markets and their use in prospective steel industries.

* This review covers the year 1959.