

The Dominion Coal Board, through financial assistance in the acquisition of new equipment and subventions on coal transportation, continued assistance to the coal industry. Almost 26 p.c. of the coal production was moved with the aid of subvention payments, although the total tonnage to which this applied was 9.9 p.c. less than in 1958.

Production of coal in Canada for 1959 was down more than 9 p.c. to 10,626,722 tons, the lowest since 1909 and a drop of 44.5 p.c. from the record production of 19,139,112 tons in 1950. The average value for all coal was \$6.952 per ton or 30.33 cents per million Btu. This declining production and accompanying mine closures were reflected in the employment at the mines, where the number of man-days dropped from 2,848,615 in 1958 to 2,481,498 in 1959—almost 13 p.c. Nova Scotia, the major coal-producing province, was most affected by the declining coal markets; the decrease in coal-mine employment in that province amounted to 18.4 p.c.

The major part (65.4 p.c.) of the coal produced was bituminous, valued at \$8.990 per ton or 34.47 cents per million Btu at the mine. Subbituminous accounted for 16.3 p.c. of production and lignite for 18.3 p.c. The average value of subbituminous coal was \$4.430 per ton, this being 23.69 cents per million Btu, and the value of lignite was \$1.924 per ton at 12.44 cents per million Btu. Bituminous coal production decreased 10.4 p.c. and lignite 13.6 p.c., but subbituminous increased 2.9 p.c. as a result of the demand by thermal power plants in Western Canada.

The proportion of strip-mined coal continued to increase, more than 38 p.c. of the output being won by stripping methods in 1959. The output per man-day of coal from Canada's strip mines was 13.18 tons in 1959 compared with 3.00 tons from underground mines. This represents a decrease of 1.88 tons for strip mines and an increase of 0.11 tons for underground mines. The over-all output per man-day increased from 4.10 to 4.28 tons.

The consumption of coal in Canada decreased 2.6 p.c. in 1959 to 24,548,259 tons, representing a drop of 45.3 p.c. since 1950. More than 57 p.c. of the coal consumed was imported, about 89 p.c. of it being bituminous coal used in Ontario and Quebec. Total imports of coal were about 2 p.c. higher than in 1958. The production of coke used about 5,600,000 tons of coal in 1959, of which about 86 p.c. was imported. The sale of coal by retail fuel dealers to the commercial and household heating markets was steady but industrial consumption decreased about 8.2 p.c. to 10,024,779 tons, of which more than 53 p.c. was imported. Use of coal by railway locomotives dropped to 554,260 tons from 1,393,823 tons in 1958 and declined almost 11,000,000 tons in a decade. Exports of Canadian coal in 1959 amounted to 473,768 tons compared with 338,544 tons in 1958. Most of this went to the United States and Japan for blending in the manufacture of metallurgical coke. The manufacture of briquettes decreased from 204,050 tons in 1958 to 153,134 tons in 1959. The railways used more than 40 p.c. of the total consumption of 175,008 tons.

Coal is produced in five provinces and a large share of the market for the industry is concentrated in Central Canada where there is no coal production. A small amount of coal is also mined in the Yukon Territory. A review of the provincial activities of the industry follows.

Nova Scotia.—Nova Scotia, with a coal production of 4,391,829 tons, accounted for more than 41 p.c. of the Canadian coal output in 1959. Production was 16.7 p.c. lower than in 1958. The coal is high volatile bituminous coking coal mined in the Sydney, Cumberland and Pictou areas, and some non-coking bituminous coal in the St. Rose, Inverness and Port Hood areas on the west coast of Cape Breton Island. The over-all value at the mines increased to \$9.957 a ton from \$9.554 a ton in 1958. This represents about 37.8 cents per million Btu. The output per man-day was 2.72 tons in 1959 compared with 2.66 tons in 1958.

All Nova Scotia coal comes from underground mines, most of which are mechanized. Coal-washing plants are operated at two of the collieries and prepare about 20 p.c. of the province's coal production. Much of the output is used locally for industrial steam-raising, electric power production, household and commercial heating and the manufacture of