

Ocean and of the channels between the northern islands of the Archipelago. The Project's staff includes physicists, hydrographers, geologists, geographers and biologists who, through joint studies, will obtain a more definitive picture of the characteristics of the region.

**The Dominion Coal Board.\***—The Board was established by the Dominion Coal Board Act (RSC 1952, c. 86) which was proclaimed on Oct. 21, 1947. By this Act the Board was constituted a department of government to advise on all matters relating to the production, importation, distribution and use of coal in Canada. The Board is also charged with the responsibility of advising upon and administering transportation subventions.

Ancillary to these principal duties, the Board is empowered to undertake research and investigations with respect to:—

- (1) the systems and methods of mining coal;
- (2) the problems and techniques of marketing and distributing coal;
- (3) the physical and chemical characteristics of coal produced in Canada with a view to developing new uses therefor;
- (4) the position of coal in relation to other forms of fuel or energy available for use in Canada;
- (5) the cost of production and distribution of coal and the accounting methods adopted or used by persons dealing in coal;
- (6) the co-ordination of the activities of government departments relating to coal; and
- (7) such other matters as the Minister may request or as the Board may deem necessary for carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of the Act.

In addition, the Dominion Coal Board Act provides authority in the event of a national fuel emergency to ensure that adequate supplies of fuel are made available to meet Canadian requirements.

Assistance by transportation subventions, which have been maintained in varying degrees during the past 30 years, was designed to further the movement of Canadian coals by equalizing as far as possible the laid-down costs of Canadian coals with imported coals. As these costs and the conditions of the coal industry are subject to variation, the Board must review from time to time the rates of subvention and the areas where the assistance is required. The subventions in respect of the various Canadian coals are authorized by Orders in Council and are paid from moneys voted by Parliament for the purpose from year to year. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1960, a total of 3,090,022 tons was shipped under subvention and \$15,491,077 was paid in assistance.

Coal subventions of a new type, based on the Btu content of coal used in thermal electric power production, were authorized in January 1958 by the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act (SC 1958, c. 25). The Dominion Coal Board was designated as the Federal Government's administrative agency for subvention matters in agreements made with the provinces under this Act.

As agent to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, the Board receives applications and administers loans under the Coal Production Assistance Act (RSC 1952, c. 173, as amended by SC 1958, c. 36, and SC 1959, c. 39). The Board also administers payments under the Canadian Coal Equality Act (RSC 1952, c. 34), which provides a subsidy on Canadian coal used in the manufacture of coke for metallurgical purposes. In the year ended Mar. 31, 1960, payments under this Act totalling \$331,332 were made on 669,358 tons of coal.

The Dominion Coal Board has maintained a continuous review of Canada's fuel requirements. In view of the growing impact of oil and natural gas on the markets for Canadian coal, the Board and its staff have intensified the study of the relation of the competing sources of energy and of possible new outlets for the solid fuel.

\* Prepared under the direction of W. E. Uren, O.B.E., Chairman of the Dominion Coal Board.