

The Board, since its inception, has worked toward the co-ordination of the activities of various government departments and other bodies relating to coal. On the matter of technical research as related to marketing and distributing coal, the Board has maintained close liaison with the Fuels and Mining Practice Division of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Dominion-provincial conferences on coal research have been held annually since 1949 for the co-ordination and exchange of ideas.

Government purchases of fuel, which constitute an important outlet for coal, have claimed a part of the Board's time. The Interdepartmental Committee on Fuel, set up in the past to co-ordinate and advise on the purchase and supply of fuel to the Armed Services, has remained active. The Dominion Fuel Committee, which was organized in 1956 along similar lines as an advisory body to other government departments, has demonstrated its value.

In a wider sphere, the Chairman of the Board has met annually with the Coal Policy Committee of the Provincial Ministers of Mines and the Board has given consideration to recommendations made by that body relating to coal. The Board has also kept contact with trade and other associations concerned with the various phases of the Canadian coal industry in order to foster better mutual understanding of government and private endeavour. It has generally constituted a central agency through which representations may be made to the Government.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Coal (1946), the Board has continued to work for a reduction of customs duties and sales tax on coal mining machinery. It has also maintained its efforts to create a uniform system of coal mine cost accounting which would provide an accurate presentation of the cost of production.

The Dominion Coal Board consists of seven members including the Chairman who is its Chief Executive Officer and has the status of a deputy minister. The Board is responsible to, and subject to the direction of, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Government Aid*

Newfoundland.—The Newfoundland Government, through its Mines Branch, provides several valuable services to those interested in prospecting and mining. It supplies certain geological maps of specific areas to interested parties. It identifies specimens sent in from Newfoundland and Labrador and assays by chemical means those that appear to have some mineral content. If good specimens from a known area warrant further investigation, a geologist from the Department of Mines and Resources is available to visit the locality and give advice. Prospecting and mining permits are issued by the Department and claims are registered.

Nova Scotia.—Under the provisions of the Mines Act (RSNS 1954, c. 179), the Government of Nova Scotia may assist a mining company or operator in the sinking of shafts, slopes, deeps and winzes and the driving of adits, tunnels, crosscuts, raises and levels. This assistance may take the form of work performed under contract, the payment of bills for materials and labour, or the guarantee of bank loans. Any such work must be approved by the Department of Mines. The Government is also authorized to assist the mining industry to procure power on the most economical basis and may guarantee the Nova Scotia Power Commission against any loss of revenue incurred on account of capital investments made for that purpose. Mining machinery and equipment that may be used in searching for or testing and mining minerals may be made available through the Government. Such equipment is under the direct supervision of the Chief Mining Engineer.

* Compiled from material supplied by the respective provincial governments.