

establishment of a power grid in the Maritimes. As a contribution to the co-ordination of coal research and to the dissemination to the industry of technical information resulting from research, the Board initiated the now annual Dominion-Provincial Conferences on Coal. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics collects most of the statistical information required by the Board.

Government purchases of fuel, which constitute an important outlet for coal, claim a part of the time of the Board's staff in an advisory capacity. Advice on fuel matters is also continuously available to all government departments and agencies. A senior official of the Coal Board is chairman of the Interdepartmental Fuel Committee, which advises on the supply, purchase and utilization of fuel for the Department of National Defence, and of the Dominion Fuel Committee, which is organized along similar lines as an advisory body to other government departments.

The subvention assistance on the movement of Canadian coals, which the Board administers, is authorized from year to year by votes of moneys by Parliament; payments are in accordance with Regulations established by Order in Council. This assistance, which has been provided in varying degrees for the past 30 years, was designed to further the marketing of Canadian coals by equalizing as far as possible the laid-down costs of Canadian coals with imported coals. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1963, a total of 3,192,100 tons of coal was shipped under subvention and \$16,771,963 was paid in assistance; in 1963-64, the figures were 3,836,313 tons and \$18,341,784, respectively. Costs and conditions of the coal industry being subject to variations, the Board must review from time to time the rates of subvention and the areas where the assistance is required.

Coal subventions of another type, based on the Btu content of coal used in thermal-electric power production, were authorized in January 1958 by the provisions of the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act. The Dominion Coal Board was designated as the Government of Canada'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; SC 1959, c. 39; SC 1960-61, c. 20; and SC 1962-63, c. 13). The Board also administers payments under the Canadian Coal Equity 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, 1963, payments under this Act totalling \$234,881 were made on 474,507 tons of coal and in the following year payments totalling \$236,108 were made on 476,986 tons.

Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act.—Under this Act, which came into force in 1948 (RSC 1952, c. 95), financial assistance is provided to marginal gold mines to counteract the effects of increasing costs of production and a fixed price for gold. By enabling gold mines to extend their productive life, the subventions help communities dependent on gold mining to adjust to diminishing economic support gradually.

Application of the Act was extended for four years to the end of 1967 on Dec. 12, 1963. The amending legislation provides a restriction on the payment of assistance to new lode gold mines commencing production after June 30, 1965. A lode gold mine brought into operation after that date will be eligible for assistance only if the mine provides direct support to an existing gold-mining community. A gold mine will be deemed to provide such support if the majority of the persons employed at the mine reside in one or more of a number of gold-mining communities which are specified in the Act.

The Act is administered by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys with the aid of the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury in accounting matters. Since the inception of the Act, the amount of assistance payable to the operators of a gold mine has been calculated by a formula consisting of two factors: the "rate of assistance" which is based on the cost per ounce of gold produced from the mine, and the "assistance ounces" which are a specified proportion of the total ounces of gold produced.