

26.—Natural Gas Produced, by Province, and Total Value, 1956-65

NOTE.—Figures from 1920 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1940 edition.

Year	New Brunswick	Ontario	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Northwest Territories	Canada	
							Quantity	Value
	Mcf.	Mcf.	Mcf.	Mcf.	Mcf.	Mcf.	Mcf.	\$
1956....	190,322	12,811,618	9,807,697	146,133,693	187,846	21,210	169,152,586	16,849,556
1957....	176,417	14,400,913	13,994,347	183,140,820	8,274,942	19,243	220,006,682	20,962,501
1958....	123,957	16,147,956	18,819,795	239,049,591	69,638,297	24,100	337,803,726	32,057,536
1959....	117,502	16,839,236	33,612,966	297,568,926	69,128,708	67,189	417,534,527	39,609,393
1960....	88,701	14,987,056	36,571,633	383,682,986	85,592,166	39,785	522,972,327	52,196,882
1961....	96,318	14,544,165	37,192,595	500,843,900	103,018,998	41,678	655,737,644	68,421,918
1962....	85,750	15,848,294	38,845,732	770,963,122	121,093,122	56,707	946,702,727	108,641,159
1963....	103,524	15,920,055	39,936,193	943,354,973	118,058,994	51,478	1,117,425,217	150,468,714
1964....	105,055	13,815,967	62,281,321	1,184,754,869	146,105,999	34,297	1,407,997,508	172,966,859
1965 ^a	160,380	13,369,000	41,565,000	1,253,029,000	161,976,000	44,075	1,470,083,455	197,296,911

Alberta.—The highlight of 1965 in Alberta was the discovery in February of oil and gas near Rainbow Lake in northwestern Alberta by Banff Oil Ltd., Acquitaine Company of Canada Ltd., and Socony Mobil Oil of Canada Ltd. The productive zones are comparatively thick and porous and have excellent producing characteristics. The main reservoir is the Middle Devonian, Keg River reef having thicknesses up to 600 feet. The discovery initiated a rush to acquire land and commence work but the isolated location, some 400 miles north of Edmonton, and muskeg conditions hampered initial operations. Nevertheless, the Rainbow Lake discovery materially helped to make 1965 a record year for exploratory drilling in Western Canada. The Keg River formation and the overlying muskeg formation extend from northwestern Alberta and adjacent areas in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories southeastward into Saskatchewan and Manitoba, thus indicating large areas for future exploration.

Of the 10,200,000 feet drilled in Alberta in 1965, 4,500,000 feet was exploratory drilling. This was 566,000 feet more than in 1964 but development drilling declined by 700,000 feet. The number of exploratory wells totalled 873 in 1965 against 718 in 1964 and the number of development wells was 1,083 compared with 1,122 in 1964.

Recent drilling in or near the Alberta Foothills has been noteworthy for the discoveries of wet natural gas. A large Devonian gas reservoir at Gold Creek, 25 miles southeast of Grande Prairie is an important example. There the gas tested 150 bbl. per Mcf. and the field has "pay" sections greater than 200 feet. In the Obed region, 35 miles west of Edson, additional Devonian gas was discovered which has a sulphur content of 25 p.c., making the gas as valuable for sulphur as for pipeline gas.

Construction progressed favourably at the plant of Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited, 20 miles north of Fort McMurray. The schedule calls for the commencement of commercial production of oil from the Athabasca bituminous sands in the latter part of 1967. This project, to cost an estimated \$230,000,000 including a pipeline from Edmonton to the site, will produce some 45,000 bbl. daily of crude, tailored to meet refinery requirements.

Saskatchewan.—Despite a lack of major discoveries of either oil or gas, the number of wells drilled in the province continued to increase. Indeed, the 1,284 wells drilled in 1965 was a record but footage drilled, a total of 4,500,000 feet, was considerably less than the 5,300,000-foot record established in 1957. The lack of large discoveries was reflected in a decline in exploratory work; the number of exploratory wells decreased from 478 in 1964 to 438 in 1965 and footage drilled showed a corresponding trend from 1,660,000 feet to 1,620,000 feet. There were, however, several small oil discoveries; of the total 1,284 wells drilled, 697 were oil wells, 57 were gas wells, 11 were service wells and 519 were dry and abandoned.