

Elsewhere in the eastern off-shore, the first exploratory well ever to be drilled on the Labrador Shelf had to be suspended before it reached total depth because of poor weather and rough sea conditions. This test was located about 510 miles north and slightly west of St. John's, Nfld.

In Ontario there were no significant discoveries made in 1971 and both exploratory and development drilling declined. Exploratory drilling, at 135,000 ft, was down 8% from the previous year and development footage, at 116,000 ft, declined 28%.

### 12.1.5 Coal

Canadian production for 1971 was 18,400,000 tons, an increase of 11.0% over the previous year (Table 12.27). Alberta's subbituminous production, representing 24.0% of the total, accounted for much of this increase by expanding 12.9% over 1970, largely to meet the greater needs of the electric utilities. Consumption of coal by electric utilities in 1971 increased 8.8% to 17,200,000 tons from 15,200,000 tons the previous year. Japanese demand for metallurgical coal was the outstanding reason for the increase of bituminous production by 25.2% and 33.1% in Alberta and British Columbia, respectively, so that bituminous coal ultimately represented 58.1% of total production despite a decrease of 7.4% in Nova Scotia. Saskatchewan's lignite production dropped 13.6% over the previous year, yet again representing 17.9% of total production.

Exports of coal for 1971 increased 76.1% over 1970 to 7,700,000 tons, of which 96% was shipped to Japan. Landed imports during the same period decreased 7.9% to 18,100,000 tons, of which approximately 95% entered through Ontario ports (Table 12.28). United States bituminous coal, of which 9,000,000 tons was used in thermal power generation and 7,000,000 tons in steel plants, accounted for 90% of these imports (Table 12.29).

Value of production (f.o.b. mines, and including value of reclaimed coal) increased 41.4% over 1970 to \$122,000,000 for 1971. For bituminous coal, unit value of production was \$9.92 per ton in British Columbia (an increase of \$2.54 per ton over 1970), \$9.85 per ton in Alberta (an increase of \$2.24 per ton), \$11.71 per ton in Nova Scotia (an increase of \$1.42 per ton) and \$7.61 per ton in New Brunswick (an increase of \$0.12 per ton). Alberta subbituminous averaged \$1.60 per ton (a decrease of \$0.03 per ton) while Saskatchewan lignite decreased \$0.01 per ton to \$1.93.

**British Columbia.** In 1971 production of low- and medium-volatile bituminous coals increased by more than one third to reach some 4,600,000 tons as production increased from the large mining complex of Kaiser Resources Ltd. in the Crowsnest Pass area of southeastern British Columbia. After experiencing difficulties with its large surface mine and preparation plant in 1970, Kaiser began a program of modifications in 1971 to overcome these problems. As a result Kaiser renegotiated interim adjustments in its long-term contract with Japanese buyers. Shipments were curtailed for three weeks in December 1971 as a result of a fire in Kaiser's coal dryer.

During 1971 Fording Coal Limited continued pre-production developments at its coal mine located along the Elk River, 35 miles north of the Kaiser mine. A 34-mile spurline from the CPR mainline was completed into the property in October. By late 1971 construction of its surface coal mine was almost completed. Initial deliveries under Fording's long-term contract with Japanese steel companies were scheduled to commence on April 1, 1972.

In 1971 a number of companies continued exploration programs for coal, particularly in northeastern British Columbia. In the southeastern part of the province, two properties were the object of feasibility studies.

**Alberta.** Alberta is Canada's leading coal-producing province, producing subbituminous and bituminous coals. Subbituminous output is used almost entirely for generation of electricity while the bituminous production is principally for the export market in Japan. In 1971 total production rose by approximately 18% to 8,000,000 tons as bituminous production increased by roughly one quarter.

Of the two new bituminous mines which commenced production of coking coal for export to Japan in 1970 only Cardinal River Coals, Ltd., situated in the Luscar area, operated at full capacity in 1971. McIntyre Porcupine Mines Limited, operating a large coal mining complex 80 miles northwest of Luscar in the Smoky River valley, experienced operating difficulties in 1971, particularly with their underground longwall system which was abandoned in mid-year