for a room-and-pillar system. Difficulties were also being experienced at McIntyre's preparation plant. By year-end a small surface mine had been developed to supplement underground production.

Subbituminous production continued to expand during 1971 because of the growing demand for coal for mine-mouth power generating stations in Alberta. Production rose by almost 13% in 1971. Substantial expansion is planned at the Highvale mine in the Wabamun area to service additional units at the Sundance generating station. In addition, two mines in the Forestburg area are increasing capacity to meet the planned expansion of the nearby Battle River generating station.

Exploration for both bituminous and subbituminous coals remained quite active in 1971. One company completed a feasibility study on a bituminous coking coal property near Luscar.

Saskatchewan. Production of lignite coals from the Estevan area of southeastern Saskatchewan declined by some 14% in 1971 from the record year of 3,800,000 tons in 1970. This decline happened mainly because the large purchases made by Ontario Hydro in 1970 to overcome shortages in that year were not repeated in 1971. Saskatchewan lignite is used primarily for the generation of electricity in Saskatchewan and to a lesser extent in Manitoba. The large Boundary Dam generating station at Estevan is the main consumer of lignite.

Yukon Territory. In 1971 small amounts of coal were produced at Carmacks for the lead-zinc operation of Anvil Mining Corporation Limited at Vangorda Creek.

New Brunswick. Coal production rose by roughly 30% to over 500,000 tons in 1971, primarily from increased demands in the province for thermal generation of electricity. The provincially-owned corporation, N B Coal Limited, which operates all coal mines in the province, continued its program of consolidation by closing the last underground mine in 1971. All coal production is now being extracted by surface methods. In recent years the only coal mining operations in New Brunswick have been conducted in the Minto coal field.

Nova Scotia. In 1971 coal production declined slightly to about 2,000,000 tons. The largest producer, Cape Breton Development Corporation (DEVCO), closed one mine in 1971 and continued development of its new mine at Lingan scheduled for opening in 1974. Besides DEVCO, one mine closed at Springhill and another was scheduled to close at Thorburn early in 1972. Chief markets for Nova Scotia coal are thermal power generation and coke making.

Future outlook. Major export market possibilities exist, in addition to the already substantial demand from Japan, for Canadian metallurgical coal. The ability of the western Canadian coal mining industry to meet production schedules and quality standards and successful development of inexpensive methods for transporting coal from mines to consumers are critical to the rate of future export growth. Canadian coal production can reasonably be expected to double by 1980 to meet an increasing demand within the country and for export.

12.2 Government aid to the mineral industry

12.2.1 Federal government aid

Federal assistance to the mining industry takes the form of the provision of detailed geological, geophysical, topographical, geodetic, geographical and marine data which are of basic importance to the discovery and development of the mineral resources of Canada; the provision, through laboratory and pilot-plant research, of technical information concerning the processing of ores, industrial minerals and fuels on a commercial scale; certain tax incentives; and financial and technical assistance to the gold-mining industry under the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources was created by the Government Organization Act on October 1, 1966 (RSC 1970, c.E-6). Apart from its administrative establishments, the Department is made up of three Sectors – Science and Technology, Mineral Development and Energy Development – each headed by an Assistant Deputy Minister and each aiding the Canadian mineral industry according to its assigned responsibility.

The Science and Technology Sector contains the Mines Branch, the Geological Survey of Canada, the Surveys and Mapping Branch, the Earth Physics Branch, the Atlantic Geosciences Centre, the Polar Continental Shelf Project and the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing.

The Mines Branch is a large laboratory and pilot-plant complex carrying out applied and