the route. Completion of the line was to be timed to coincide with the start-up of the Syncrude plant scheduled for 1978.

13.7 Coal

Forecasts of Canadian coal production in the next few years indicate that total output will continue to increase. In the immediate future the thermal sector will experience the largest gains as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have plans or work under way to expand the use of Canadian coals to produce electricity.

If all projects now under consideration go ahead, coal consumption by utilities would approximately double by 1985. New large-scale coal movements from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan to Ontario, projected for 1979, indicate Canadian thermal coals can be competitive with imported coals. The export thermal sector has levelled off at about 10 or 11 million tonnes and is unlikely to increase substantially in the immediate future.

Total coal production in Canada in 1977 approached 29 million t. Imports approached 15.5 million t for a total supply of 44.5 million t. On the demand side, consumption of thermal coal approximated 21 million t while that for coking coal was about 7 million and the industrial-commercial sector used 2 million. Exports were expected to total about 12.5 million t.

Canadian production of coal in 1976 was 25.5 million t valued at $607 million (Table 13.10), up slightly from 1975 (25.3 million t). Output increased in Nova Scotia, Alberta and Saskatchewan but decreased in New Brunswick and British Columbia. Western Canadian production reached 23.2 million t, while output from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick mines totalled 2.3 million t.

About 11.9 million t of coal were exported in 1976 (Table 13.11), with British Columbia and Alberta contributing 95% and Nova Scotia making up most of the other 5%. Japan received 10.6 million t in 1976; the remaining 1.2 million t went to 11 other countries. Exports in 1977 were forecast at 12.5 million t. Imports from the US in 1976 were 14.5 million t, down from 15.2 million in 1975.

In 1976-77 the general world economic slowdown led to lower steel production and a consequent reduced demand for coking coal. Japan's steel industry, major consumer of Canadian coking coals, operated below capacity and was not expected to revert to full production until the 1980s. As a result, exports of coking coal, 10.0 million t in 1974, remained stable during 1975 (10.8 million t) and 1976 (10.6 million t) and were expected to change very little in 1977. Canadian coking coal producers are now actively seeking other smaller Asian as well as Latin American markets.

Demand for thermal coal has increased as several provinces have either expanded their use or made commitments to use coal to meet growing energy requirements. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta consumed 19.1 million t of coal to generate electricity in 1976 (Table 13.12) and 1977 figures were expected to be 20% higher.

Domestic coal, mainly sub-bituminous in Alberta and lignite in Saskatchewan, supplied about 11 million t to Western Canada power stations. Bituminous coal is used in small quantities for thermal power generation in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and imported by Ontario Hydro in large amounts from the United States. Demand for coal by other general industrial and commercial users reached 1.7 million t in 1976.

13.7.1 Production areas

British Columbia. Coal mining is centred southeast in the Crowsnest Pass region.

Kaiser Resources Ltd., with two operating mines in the Crowsnest coalfield, produced about 5.4 million tonnes of clean coal in 1976. Work was under way on a new hydraulic panel scheduled for production in 1979. Work on the proposed new Hosmer-Wheeler hydraulic mine south of Kaiser's operations continued during 1976 but in 1977 a delay in development of this mine was announced pending further sales negotiations.

The Fording Coal Ltd. mine near Elkford, about 64 kilometres north of Sparwood, BC produced approximately 1.6 million t of clean coal in 1976, all of it shipped to Japan.