

Estimates of available coal reserves now being compiled for the Royal Commission on Coal by various mining companies, Departments of Mines of the several coal-producing provinces and by the Geological Survey, indicate that the reserves of available coal form not more than about 25 p.c. of what was previously listed under resources as actual, probable and possible reserves. These show, however, that, with the exception of one important district, the reserves of available coal are amply sufficient to take care of market requirements for many generations to come. The map facing p. 347 shows by different colours the areas of developed and potential coal deposits of the various ranks and, by size of circle, the relative production in 1945 of coal in the various provinces and the principal mining districts of each province where the production exceeds 10,000 tons. Brief descriptions of the coal deposits of each of these provinces follow.

Nova Scotia.—The coal deposits of Nova Scotia occur in several formations of Carboniferous Pennsylvanian age. The coalfields fall into two main groups: (1) that of Cape Breton Island, comprising the Sydney County coalfield on the east coast, the Inverness County coalfield on the west coast, and the small unproductive Richmond County coalfield at the southwestern part of the Island; and (2) that of Nova Scotia mainland, comprising the Pictou County coalfield in the eastern part of the Province, and the Cumberland County coalfield in the northwestern part of the Province.

Sydney County Coalfield.—The Sydney County coalfield is spread along the east coast of Cape Breton for a distance of 30 miles from Port Morien on the southeast, to Cape Daulphin on the northwest. Its productive measures reach inward for a maximum distance of 5 miles and seaward for an undetermined distance. The coal seams occur at several areas in the uppermost 6,800 feet of strata of Pennsylvanian Carboniferous age. There are 15 or more seams in the formation, 11 of which, ranging in thickness from 3 to 9 feet, either have been or are being mined in one or more of the five mining districts of this coalfield. The coal measures and contained seams are flexed into gentle undulations, and with few exceptions, dip seaward at low angles. The coal in most of the land areas has been worked-out and present mining operations, as well as available reserves, lie in the submarine areas. There are no serious structural faults to interfere with extensive mining operations seaward, but over much of the areas the coal cannot be mined profitably due to its inferior grade, or to the coal seams splitting and becoming too thin to mine. This coalfield is the oldest and most important in Canada from the standpoint of past history, present production, and reserves available for future development. It has been under development for nearly 200 years, its production of marketed coal up-to-date, amounting to over 200,000,000 tons, and its total worked-out coal, consisting of that mined and that left in the old workings, being estimated to amount to over 406,000,000 tons. Its production in 1945 amounted to 3,688,657 tons, and its available coal reserves are estimated at over 1,000,000,000 tons, an amount which should meet the requirements of the maximum annual output for a period of about 200 years. The coal mined in the Sydney coalfield is an excellent coking bituminous coal, with some deposits of "cannel" coal. The coal is classed as High Volatile "A" Bituminous and High Volatile "B" Bituminous coal.

Inverness County Coalfield.—The Inverness County coalfield embraces a group of four small detached coal areas that occur along the west coast of Cape Breton Island in Inverness County from Port Hood at the southwest to Margaree Harbour at the north, a distance of 40 miles. They embrace Port Hood, Mabou, Inverness, St. Rose and Chimney Corner coal areas. Coal seams in all these areas have been worked,