

strata and their contained coal seams. The Department maintains an office at Sydney, N.S., in co-operation with the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation to assist in the development and prolong the production life of the Sydney coalfield.

Details on coal in the respective coal producing provinces, follow:

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.—Nova Scotia produces high-volatile and medium-volatile bituminous coking coals in the Sydney, Cumberland and Pictou areas and some non-coking bituminous coal in the Inverness area. Volume of production in 1954 was slightly higher than in 1953, amounting to 5,843,000 tons valued at \$51,938,000.

Many of the major operations have been mechanized in order to reduce production costs. Several Dosco Miners are in use and a number of new wash plants have been built to clean, size and oil the coal to meet marketing specifications. Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation, the largest operator, temporarily halted the construction of a 6,225 foot inclined tunnel into its submarine workings at Glace Bay which was started a few years ago to increase output and reduce transportation costs. It was planned to equip the tunnel with a belt-conveyor system to bring the coal to surface and a single track road for use in transporting men and material to and from the surface by rope haulage. A similar tunnel is being built at the Princess Colliery at Sydney Mines.

New Brunswick coal output comes mainly from the Minto area and in 1954 amounted to 781,000 tons of high-volatile bituminous coal compared with 721,000 tons in 1953. A minor tonnage came from the Beersville area.

Much of the output from the two provinces is used locally for industrial and domestic purposes. The remainder, amounting to 39 p.c. of the output in 1954, is shipped to central Canada for commercial and railway use.

Saskatchewan.—This Province produces only lignite coal, chiefly from the Bienfait and Roche Percee fields in the Souris area. Production in 1954 amounted to 2,117,000 tons valued at \$3,962,000 compared with 2,021,000 tons valued at \$3,834,000 in 1953. Approximately 53 p.c. of the output in 1954 was shipped to Manitoba for domestic and industrial use. The output of briquettes, which are made from carbonized lignite and are used entirely for domestic purposes, amounted to 41,000 tons in 1954, a slight decline from the 1953 production.

Alberta.—Alberta produces almost all types of coal including a relatively small tonnage of semi-anthracite which in 1954 came from the Cascade area. Coking bituminous coal ranging from high to low volatile is produced in the Crowsnest, Nordegg and Mountain Park areas, mainly for railway and industrial consumption. Lower rank bituminous non-coking coals are produced in the Lethbridge, Coalspur and Saunders areas and in several other areas of the foothills. The coal in the Drumheller, Edmonton, Brooks, Camrose, Castor and Carbon areas is classed as subbituminous and that in the Tofield, Redcliff and several other areas is on the border of subbituminous and lignite. These coals are used mainly for domestic and commercial purposes but an increasing proportion is being used industrially.

Production declined from 5,917,000 tons valued at \$32,110,000 in 1953 to 4,871,000 tons valued at \$26,569,000 in 1954. Since the discovery of the Leduc oil field in 1947 coal output in Alberta has declined 40 p.c. from a production of 8,071,000 tons, a clear illustration of the marked inroads made by crude petroleum into coal marketing outlets. About 49 p.c. of the output in 1954 was bituminous and 51 p.c. subbituminous and lignite, mainly the former. During the review period the only operating mine in the Nordegg area suspended operations and the one remaining in operation in the Mountain Park area curtailed production.

The output of briquettes, which are made from the semi-anthracite coals of the Cascade area and the medium-volatile bituminous coals of the Crowsnest and Mountain Park areas, amounted to 637,000 tons in 1954 compared with 666,000 tons in 1953.