

The Production of Coal and Iron Ore in Canada Considered in Relation to the Iron and Steel Industries

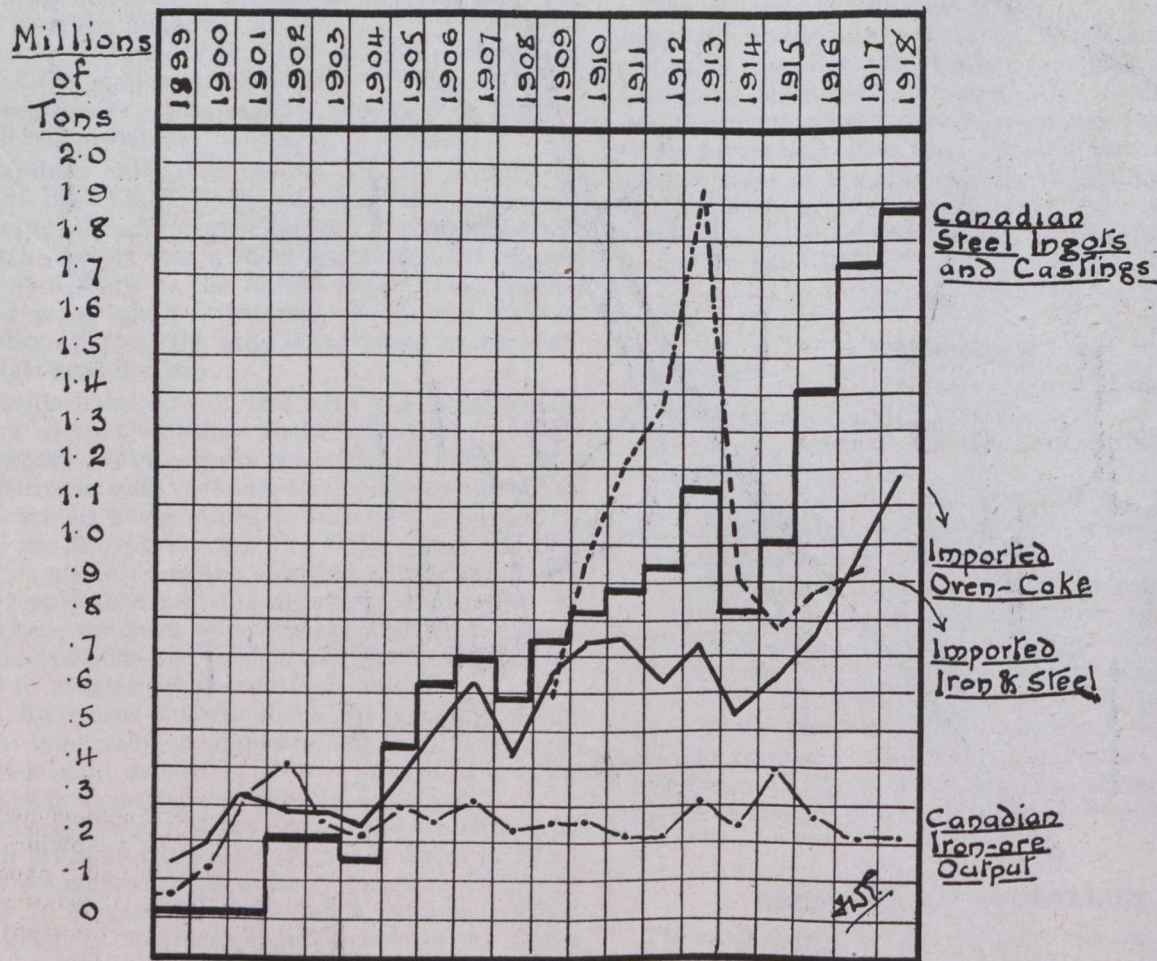
By the Editor in "Iron and Steel of Canada."

The two graphs accompanying are compiled from the Department of Mines statistics. The graph illustrative of Canadian coal consumption shows that up to about 1912 the Dominion was able to furnish from its own coal-seams a little better than half the tonnage of coal consumed for all purposes in Canada. Actually, however, this was not the case, as a certain amount of coal was exported, chiefly from the Cape Breton mines to Boston, Mass. During the period 1886 to 1899 the coal imported into Canada averaged a little over 54 per cent of the total coal consumption of the country. During the period 1899 to 1918, included in the graphs, the same percentage was maintained, but during the war period the percentage of coal imports has greatly increased. At the present time the imports have risen to 63 per cent of Canadian consumption of coal.

The coal consumed in Canada during 1918 is estimated at 34,840,000 tons, the highest figure recorded

in Canadian statistics, and most closely approached by 1913 when 31,582,545 tons of coal were consumed. The consumption per capita shows a steadily rising figure, and this is encouraging as showing Canada's progress in the industrial arts and in the conveniences of civilized life, but the discouraging feature disclosed by a study of the statistics is that the Dominion is rapidly increasing its importations of coal, at higher prices than have ever prevailed in the past, and at the same time the home production of coal, shows a stationary, and even a declining tendency. Any form of production in Canada that is stationary is unsatisfactory, and is equivalent to a declining production when viewed in relation to the general growth of population.

There is this difference between the jump in coal consumption that marked 1913 and the peak figure of 1918, namely that in 1913 Canadian coal-mines were increasing their outputs coincidentally with the



— Production of Iron-Ore and Steel Manufacture in Canada. —