

Coke production in Nova Scotia has shown successive decreases during the past two years, the production in 1909 being only slightly higher than that in 1906; in the western provinces, on the other hand, an increased production is shown. The coke output of Nova Scotia is used almost entirely in connexion with the manufacture of iron, while that of Alberta and British Columbia is used chiefly by the copper and lead smelters, finding a market in the United States as well as in British Columbia.

The total number of ovens in active operation on December 31 was 1,645, while 972 were reported idle on the same date and 120 in course of construction. In Nova Scotia, the Dominion Iron and Steel Company at Sydney has 500 finished ovens and 120 in course of construction, all of the Otto Hoffman by-product type.

It is claimed that the new ovens will be much more efficient than the old, that whereas the 500 old ovens with 200 men produced 1,250 tons of coke per 24 hours, the 120 new ovens with 56 men will produce 720 tons in the same time. The by-products from these ovens include tar and ammonia. The ammonia gas is extracted from the oven gas and used in the manufacture of ammonium sulphate. The tar is sold to the Dominion Tar and Chemical Company, whose works are contiguous to the coke oven plant, and this product is further treated for the manufacture of refined tar, pitch of various grades, benzole, creosote, carbolic acid, etc. The production of tar in 1909 was 4,016,824 gallons, and ammonia liquor containing 3,351 tons of sulphate of ammonia. In 1908, the production of tar was 4,450,166 gallons, and of sulphate of ammonia, 2,984 tons.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company has 30 ovens of the Bauer type and 120 Bernard ovens; the latter are situated near the blast furnace, and the surplus gas used for the production of steam for the electric power plant. The surplus gas from the Bauer ovens is used in generating steam for general colliery use.

The other ovens in this Province number 181, and are all of the beehive type.

In Alberta, the West Canadian Collieries, Limited, at Lille, has 50 ovens of the Bernard type, or Belgian ovens. The ovens of the International Coal and Coke Company at Coleman, 216 in number, are the ordinary beehive, as are also all of the ovens in British Columbia, comprising 1,420 in the Crowsnest district and 100 on the Coast.