ADVANCE CHAPTER OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA, DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1909.

(Tons used throughout this report are short tons of 2,100 pounds, except where otherwise stated.)

COAL.

The coal mining industry was marked during 1909 by a decreased production in Nova Scotia and an increased production in the western provinces, resulting in an aggregate decrease for the whole of Canada of 384,836 tons, or about 81 per cent.

This is the first year in fourteen in which a decrease has to be recorded in comparing with the previous year's output, and had it not been for the strike of coal miners, which began at Sydney on July 6, and at Springhill, N.S., on August 10, and continued throughout the year, it is fairly certain that the production would have shown an increase instead of a decrease.

The total production in 1909 was returned as 10,501,475 tons, valued at \$24,781,236; as compared with a production of 10,886,311 tons, valued at \$25,194,573 in 1908.

Coal mining has been for a number of years the most important of Canada's mining industries, and in 1909 is credited with 27 per cent of the total mineral production of the country. As would be expected in a young country rapidly growing in population and industrial activity and endowed with large coal resources, the increase in production has been very rapid. The output in 1909 is more than twice that of ten years ago, about four times the output of twenty years ago, and nearly ten times the production of 1879. The total production during the ten year period, 1880-1889, was 20,309,426 tons, and during the uext ten years. 1890-1899, the total production was 37,689,071 tons, or an increase of 84-8 per cent. During the last ten year period, 1900-1909, the total production was 86,275,045 tons, or an increase of 128-9 per cent over the previous ten year aggregate.

Notwithstanding our large coal resources, Canada's total coal production in 1909 was only about 56.4 per cent of the estimated consumption, and our additional r irements are supplied by imports chiefly from the United States. The princip hal fields are located on the extreme east and west, while the central Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, comprising the great bulk of the population, are without coal deposits. Some inferior lignites are known in northern Ontario, but are not commercially available. Nova Scotia coal finds a considerable market in Quebec province, while the demands of Ontario, for both domestic and industrial purposes, are supplied from the south. There are no anthracite coals in eastern Canada, and our requirements of this fuel have to be met entirely by imports from Pennsylvania. The product of British Columbia and Alberta mines not only supplies local demands, including a growing ore smelting industry, but is also largely exported to the adjagent United States.

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