

DOMESTIC COAL OUTPUT HAS BEEN STEADY

Imports from United States Show Wide Fluctuations—
Present Outlook Not Serious

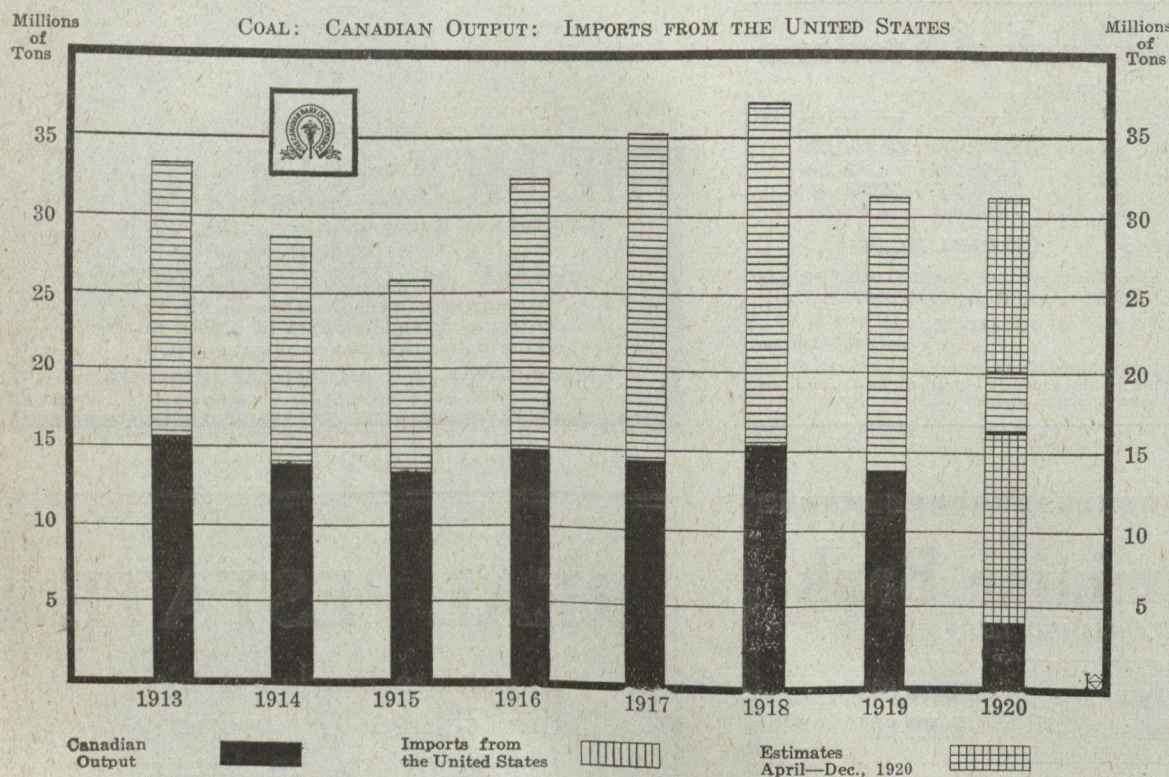
IN a review of present coal situation in Canada the November *Commercial Letter* of the Canadian Bank of Commerce says:—

"Although a coal shortage undoubtedly exists in Canada, there does not appear to be any serious cause for alarm. The dislocation of industry and the labor unrest which followed the armistice and exercised so great an influence upon production in general throughout 1919 have gradually given way to a more normal condition of affairs. This change is reflected in the improved output of coal throughout the Dominion during the present year, and the realization that, for industrial purposes at least, Canada must make better use of her own fuel resources, without too great a dependence upon importations of coal from the United States. It

from that country to Italy rose from 201,220 tons in 1918 to 2,862,773 tons in 1920, while the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden made their first appearance as purchasers of American bituminous coal.

"In the case of our domestic production, the most serious drop below normal occurred in 1919, but if the results for the remaining nine months measure up to the standard set by the first quarter of the year (the latest period for which official figures have been issued covering the whole Dominion), this loss should be retrieved by the output for 1920. There are many indications that this will occur. The daily output from the collieries at Glace Bay rose from 9,500 tons in August to 10,000 tons in September and 12,000 tons in October. The mines of British Columbia produced 206,746 tons in August and 236,566 tons in September of this year. In both Nova Scotia and British Columbia there have been strikes and rumors of strikes, but even under these adverse conditions production has kept well up to normal. The vast supply of bituminous and sub-bituminous coal in Alberta is

now being used much more generally in all three prairie provinces. Up to 31st August, 758,135 tons of Alberta coal were received and distributed in Saskatchewan, as compared with 405,249 tons for the corresponding period last year. Although the labor situation in Alberta is still very unsettled, the output has actually increased, assisted in no small degree by the improvement in transportation facilities. From the Drumheller mines 2,733 cars were shipped in September, 1920, as compared with 2,182 in September, 1919, and 1,723 in June of the present year. The output of Alberta for the six months ending July, 1920, was 3,560,323 tons, or 1,431,350



is, in fact, more than likely that any exportable surplus of coal in that country will be largely absorbed by European demands arising through the stoppage of production in Great Britain. During the eight months ending last August Great Britain exported only 18,375,932 tons, as compared with 24,161,423 tons for the corresponding period in 1919 and 48,320,608 in 1913.

Fluctuation in Imports

"The graph given above outlines the history of Canada's coal supply during the last seven years. It will be noted that the fluctuation in the volume imported from the United States is more appreciable than that in the domestic output. Coal imports, which were steadily declining from 1913 to 1915, rose in the following year, under the pressure of war requirements, to the old level, and continued to rise until the cessation of hostilities. In 1919 they fell to the levels of 1913 and 1916, and, from the figures available, it is estimated that the volume for the current year will be even less. The bituminous coal exported from the United States to Canada during the United States fiscal year ending 30th June, 1920, amounted to 10,470,516 tons, as against 16,693,062 tons for the year ending 30th June, 1918, which was a period of exceptional war activity. On the other hand, the exports

tons more than that for the corresponding period in 1919. The government lignite briquetting plant installed at Estevan is not expected to be in operation before the end of January, 1921. For this reason Saskatchewan lignite is not yet in a position to compete with imported coal."

SERVICE TO FORT McMURRAY

Premier Stewart, of Alberta, returned on November 24th from a ten-day trip over the A. and G.W. Railway to Fort McMurray. He says that about \$100,000 has been spent by the government in improvements to the waterways system this fall. During the winter 300,000 ties will be got out for repair work, and by next fall he hopes to have a regular service in operation to Fort McMurray.

"The Old Fashioned Executor" is the title of a booklet containing a series of advertisements by the National Trust Company, pointing out many ways in which the administration of estates has been improved by modern trust company methods.