

extent already been located, but this only emphasizes the need for better trained prospectors and more scientific methods of attacking the problem of finding potential new mines. Efforts by the Provincial Department of Mines and other bodies have been made for some years so to train prospectors that their work may be more effective. This training programme should, however, be supplemented by a plan to ensure the prospector a living while engaged in what is a highly speculative occupation.

In addition to new discoveries by prospecting, there is still a possibility of some new mines in British Columbia being developed from the thousands of mineral claims now located which show more or less mineralisation—mines in embryo waiting a hatching process. Doubtless the more important of these have been examined by many engineers and for one reason or another of the numerous factors that affect mining, have been turned down. Further geological study of

these supplemented by geophysical work where its use is clearly indicated, may result in new mines. It should also be remembered that the bulk of present metal production from that portion of the Western Cordillera lying in the United States is from extensions of and parallel structures to the first discovered outcropping ore-bodies, so our older camps in British Columbia, many of which appear to be exhausted, may yet, under more scientifically-directed development, yield further treasure troves.

If this future development is wisely directed, it will make use of all available tools to study every phase of geology which may have a bearing upon the deposition and occurrence of valuable deposits. Thorough co-operation of the trained geologist, the geophysicist and the driller will provide a more powerful means of attack on these problems than has ever before been available, and should be of great benefit to the mining industry of British Columbia.

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+ The Coal Commission's Report +

By C. M. CAMPBELL

THE report of the Macdonald Commission has finally been printed. The record shows that the Commission was appointed on November 29th, 1934; the report is dated September 27th, 1937, and it was made available to the public in printed form in June of this year. The methods of the Circumlocution Office still prevail.

In the December 1937 issue of "The Miner" the conclusions of this report as released by the press were reviewed. Numerous criticisms were made, one of which was to the effect that in this investigation, dealing largely with technical matters, there was not a technical man on the Commission. Objection was taken to this article by the Chief Counsel, Mr. C. H. O'Halloran, in the February issue, on the grounds that criticism should not be made on a newspaper summary but on the actual report. He also stated that in Mr. G. W. Evans the technical phases were adequately represented. It was stated in reply that delay in publishing the report and contemplated legislation left no other course open. In regard to the need for a technical man on the staff it would have been in order for the Commissioner to have consulted the Department of Mines, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, or the Association of Professional Engineers, or, preferably, all three of them. In this way an engineer with a permanent place on the Commission staff would be on hand: the report is evidence that such a man was lacking. Evans is referred to, but Evans was called in to advise only in regard to mining practice.

The report deals not only with coal, but with other fuels, chiefly petroleum. The report is therefore in two volumes and it is Volume 2, dealing with the coal industry, that will be here considered. The report covers 411 pages of the size standard in British Columbia reports and in addition there are so many inserts that the volume, exclusive of the covers, is fully an inch in thickness. To make an exhaustive review of the contents is, therefore, out of the question in the space available. Some of the more important features only can be referred to and these comments will, in the main, be supplementary to those made in previous issues.

In a report of this sort it is customary for the Commissioner to list his recommendations at the opening of the

report. In this case, instead, there are eight pages, covering 68 items, referred to as a "Brief Synopsis." These items form a jumble of statistics, findings, and recommendations. There are no headings and sub-headings in this synopsis, and there is no alphabetical index in the volume. It takes, therefore, much time and effort to get at the essential features of the report. Criticism in regard to cost is not always justified but in this case, where an unprecedented expense, probably now in excess of \$150,000, has been incurred, it is felt that not only should this report have been materially boiled down but that the public is entitled to have the recommendations so set up that their import can be seen at a glance.

The Commissioner was authorized to look into three matters. One deals with costs, preparation, and other matters in regard to coal; the second deals with similar matters in regard to oil; and the third deals with the value of the fuel industry to our economic welfare. Eliminating the oil phase entirely the situation in regard to coal will be considered under two brief headings: 1. Coal and Our Economic Welfare, and, 2. Coal Costs and Comments.

1. Coal and Our Economic Welfare

The extent of the coal reserve in any country is a real factor in determining the value of its economic welfare and estimates in regard to national and provincial tonnages were therefore gone into by the Commission. The figures quoted in this report for the coal reserves of Canada and for this province are based on the Geological Survey figures, which show 1,234 billion tons in Canada and 76 billion tons in this province; and on the article by Dr. E. S. Moore in the "McGill Symposium," where these figures are endorsed by the author with the comment that they should not be considered as meticulously accurate but as a "good guess." All other figures are ignored and the Commission, on the above information, features Canada as having "one-sixth the coal resources of the world," and states that "there is an abundant supply of first class coal in British Columbia without any suggestion of early exhaustion." O'Halloran's conclusion, "Blest, as we are, in this province with a richness of supply of coal that passes the estimation of man," is also featured. Our eco-