



"Strip-mining" coal in the Estevan-Bienfait field, Saskatchewan.

in the '30's checked this development abruptly. But western resourcefulness asserted itself, and prairie agriculture became less dependent on a single crop. During the war there was a great increase in the production of coarse grains. The raising of hogs and cattle became a major prairie activity; and by 1942, 60 per cent of the hogs raised in Canada came from the prairies. There was a trend away from absolute dependence upon wheat.

In 1927 wheat had provided 70 per cent of western farm income; by 1947, 70 per cent of farm income came from other products. At the same time improved cultivation and a high degree of mechanization were increasing wheat yields. In 1942 the second largest crop in Canadian history, 556,700,000 bushels, was harvested from 21,600,000 acres, a yield of 25.8 bushels per acre.

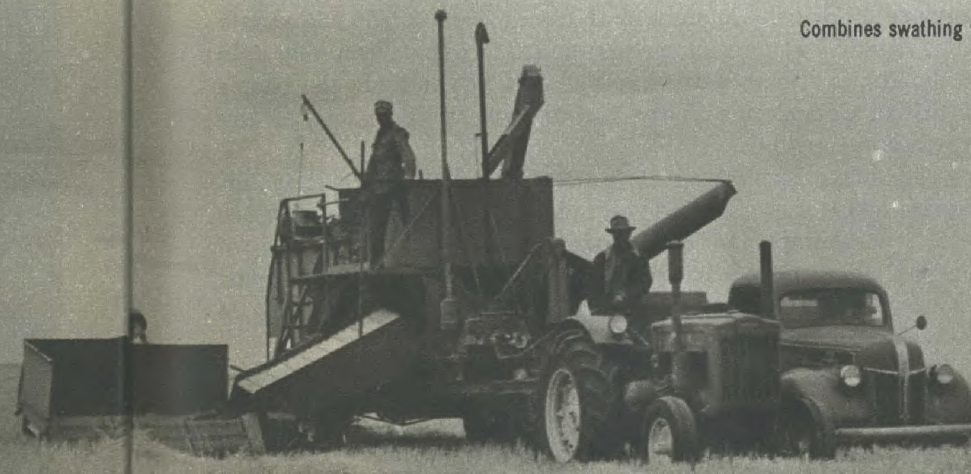
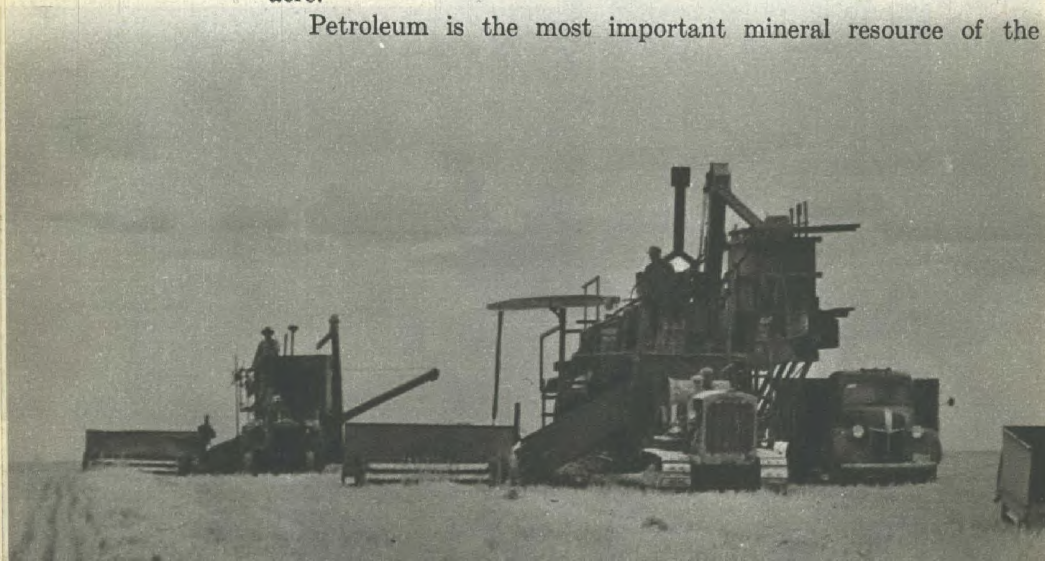
Petroleum is the most important mineral resource of the



A new oil well "blows in" on Alberta wheat field.

prairie region. Prior to February, 1947, the bulk of Canada's modest production of crude oil came from the Turner Valley in Southern Alberta. As a result of subsequent discoveries at Leduc, Redwater and other points near Edmonton in central Alberta, the output of crude oil nearly trebled, and monthly production was about one and three-quarter million barrels in the spring of 1949. A pipe-line from Edmonton to Regina is expected to be completed by late 1950; it is planned to carry this line to the western end of the Great Lakes. Vast resources of natural gas, greatly in excess of any quantity which can be immediately utilized, are also present in Alberta.

More than half the coal mined in Canada comes from Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the reserves in Alberta are the largest in the country. This is for the most part soft coal, and present production and distribution are by no means commensurate



Combines swathing wheat on a prairie farm.