

Alberta. Eventually, too, utilization of valuable by-products will provide raw materials for native industries, and in these Provinces not so well supplied with water powers as the other Provinces of the Dominion the vast stores of energy locked up in these lignites will be made available for industrial and agricultural purposes.

## WESTERN COAL RESOURCES

One cannot believe that the West with a coal production now greater than that of the Atlantic Provinces will continue to import coal from Pennsylvania. Alberta alone has 16 per cent. of the world's total coal supply. Industries in Winnipeg have discovered that coal from Alberta is a satisfactory substitute for the imported product. It is certain that Western coal will also be utilized for domestic purposes. In Ontario we have changed from wood to coal and no such revolution is required to make the West independent of outside sources of supply. Nor is it unlikely that the Atlantic Provinces will send coal into Central and Western Ontario. For years the price of coal from the United States has been steadily rising. There is a prospect of further increases. There is even danger that in the future the American supply may become inadequate and precarious. Thus far we have escaped a serious situation only by wise and wide distribution of Niagara energy. We have, too, a great safeguard for the future in the water powers of the St. Lawrence. But coal will still be necessary and it may become economically profitable to carry coal from the Atlantic Provinces into the industrial centres of Ontario, and conceivably this may become a commercial and economic necessity.

## NEW SOURCES OF WEALTH

Experiments in wheat breeding produced Marquis wheat, the staple

wheat of the West, and now the Research Council is trying to discover a variety of wheat which will ripen early, be wholly rust-resistant, and have good milling and baking qualities. A new process of making binder twine out of the flax straw of Saskatchewan has been discovered from which it is believed a great industry will develop and a substantial monetary saving to Western farmers be effected. The Research Council is seeking to discover a method of utilizing the thousands of tons of waste straw which from year to year are burned in the Prairie Provinces. The fact that we import iron and steel to the value of \$154,000,000 should stimulate exploration and research in Canada. Ores which had practically no commercial value 20 years ago are now in high demand. It cannot be doubted that we will develop mines in Canada or methods of treatment which will in degree lessen our dependence upon foreign supplies. The Natural Resources Branch of the Department of the Interior has just issued a memorandum on the subject of molybdenum. This steel is claimed to be the lightest and strongest that has yet been produced. It is said that there are over one hundred known sources of molybdenum in the Dominion, some of which have proved very productive. One mine in 1916-17 produced more than any other individual mine in the world. In 1918 the total production in Canada was 189,000 tons, which was one-third of the world's production. And it is stated that Canada is in the most favorable position in the Empire to supply this metal. In remote Northern Manitoba, beyond the Saskatchewan and north of the inland seas of the Province, in 1919 copper and gold ores, "though the surface has hardly been scratched," were produced to the value of \$694,633, timber was cut to the value of \$583,300, the lakes yielded fish to the value of \$163,000 and furs