

to Moose Jaw and thence to Estevan, Sask. Although a considerable quantity of this coal is used in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, these provinces are also supplied by coal from the Crowsnest, Canmore, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Souris districts.

Eastern Canada possesses no deposits of anthracite coal. As this coal is admirably suited for domestic heating and cooking purposes, it is imported in considerable quantity from the United States and is sold over an area extending from Nova Scotia, in the east, to Battleford, Sask., in the west. The imports in 1913 amounted to over 4,640,000 tons, being more than double the imports of 1906. The demand for this class of coal is increasing, notwithstanding the rising prices.

The supply of anthracite coal in the United States is limited and there is no assurance that its export to Canada will be long continued. In 1913, it was estimated that there were 16,153,000,000 tons of anthracite coal in the United States. In 1913, 91,524,922 tons were mined and, as it has been estimated that for every ton of coal lost a ton and a half is sold or used,* the exhaustion is proceeding at the rate of over 152,000,000 tons per annum. If production continued at the same rate, it would exhaust the anthracite of the United States in little over 100 years. We must, therefore, expect that the price will gradually increase. Coincidentally with the rising price, production will decrease, thus prolonging the life of the mines.

Of the total coal consumption in Canada during 1913, 42·6 per cent was domestic coal and 57·4 per cent imported coal. In 1916 the production amounted to nearly 14,500,000 tons, while the imports for the same year exceeded 17,500,000 tons. In other words, we imported more coal than we produced. The importance of this fact may be more fully recognized when it is realized that, in 1916, the coal production amounted to over 22 per cent of our total mineral production, being valued at about \$38,300,000. The situation then is this: Although Canada has over 17 per cent of the world's reserve of coal, our production is small and we import more than we produce.

It is desirable, both from the mining and national standpoint, that these conditions be changed. This question may be resolved into several special problems:—

- (1) Domestic fuel problem in central Canada.
- (2) Imported bituminous coal fuel on the railways of central Canada and of part of western Canada.
- (3) Domestic fuel problem in Prairie Provinces.
- (4) Cheap power problem in Prairie Provinces.

**Mineral Resources of the United States—Part II, 1913, page 728.*