

ABUNDANCE OF COAL YET SMALL PRODUCTION

Dependence of Canada on Imported Fuel shown by Statistics and Explanation of Situation given in Bulletin issued by Dominion Statistics.

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from the United States, of which latter 1,825,611 tons were slack. This does not include 493,424 tons of anthracite and 2,601,959 net tons of bituminous coal (including 258,095 tons of slack) passed through the lake heads, the bulk of which was shipped westward for consumption in the Prairie Provinces.

MANITOBA.

As previously intimated, Manitoba lies within the zone which is practically devoid of coal. The explorations of the Geological Survey of Canada have established the fact that there are no rock strata present in this area which contain workable seams of coal. During the past year, the province depended on Canadian mines for approximately 50 per cent of its supply of commercial coal drawing the balance from importations of United States coal. About 65 per cent of the United States coal consumed by the province was anthracite.

SASKATCHEWAN.

Saskatchewan has important coal fields situated in the lower part of the province, in close proximity to the international boundary line. The output of the mines in the province for the year 1917 was 360,623 net tons of coal, classed as lignite, which is used largely for local consumption. The province has unnumbered pockets of lignite, much of which is mined in a desultory fashion. There is, however, an important group of mines in the southwestern corner of the province, which, largely on account of freight rates on imported coal, are able to compete favourably within the province with coal coming in from the west or the south and east.

ALBERTA.

The province of Alberta is second in rank of the coal-producing provinces, having 566 coal mines in operation during the past year, the output of which totalled 4,863,414 net tons, an increase of 214,810 tons over the year 1916, establishing a record for this province. In addition to this tonnage, and that produced by Saskatchewan, the area comprising the three Prairie Provinces and head of the lakes imported from the United States 3,340,390 net tons of coal. In the producing mines of Alberta there were employed in the year 1917 an average number of 6,047 men and boys underground, and 2,263 above ground, a total of 8,310. Alberta has been extremely fortunate in having within its boundaries coal fields of large magnitude, and comprising all grades and classes of coal, anthracite, bituminous and lignite. Mr. Dowling, of the Geological Survey, in his work in the Coal Fields and Coal Resources of Canada, estimates the available coal at 1,072,627,400 metric tons (1,182,571,708,500 net tons). Anthracite coal is mined at Bankhead, near Banff, by the Natural Resources Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Bituminous coal of the very best quality, practically equal to Welsh Admiralty, is mined at the Crownsnest Pass and other districts. The bituminous districts are at Canmore, Brazeau, Yellowhead pass, and Mountain park. Lignite is mined in twenty-seven districts of the province.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Coal was discovered in the province of British Columbia in the year 1835 at Squash on the Pacific slope and later near the present town of Nanaimo, on information given to the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company by the Indians. The first attempts at mining were made on a small scale. "The Douglas Seam" at Nanaimo was discovered in the year 1850 and, from this small beginning, the industry has developed and spread over the coal mining districts of Ladysmith and Nanaimo, and on the island of Vancouver at Cumberland and Comox.

The important coal areas at Fernie and other nearby points were reached by the Crownsnest Pass railway, as were subsequently the coal areas at Meritt. Other large coal fields are known to

exist in this area and await future development.

The output of coal in British Columbia in the year 1917 was 2,676,760 net tons, a decrease of 107,089 net tons from the output of the mines for the year 1916. As in nearly all the coal-producing areas both in Canada and the United States, shortage of labour has been experienced during the war period, due to the fact that so many mine workers enlisted for overseas service, first in Canada and then in the United States.

Reference has already been made to shipments of Canadian coal to the United States. From the collieries of Vancouver Island, the output for the year was 1,899,207 net tons, distributed as follows: Sold as coal in Canada, 824,969 tons; sold as coal in the United States, 576,697 tons; sold in other countries, 42,796 tons. Coming to the East Kootenay field, which includes the Crownsnest Pass districts, the figures show that the United States acquires a large bulk of the output from these mines, namely, sold as coal in Canada, 82,653 tons; sold as coal in the United States, 252,948 tons, out of a total of 617,961 tons. In addition to the foregoing, 278,589 tons were used in the province for the manufacture of coke.

HOW WEEDS SPREAD FROM FARM TO FARM

Experimental Farms note gives advice on what to avoid.

In his struggle against weeds, a farmer is more likely to be successful in his efforts if he understands clearly how weeds gain an entrance on to the farm in the first instance and how those already there spread from one part of the farm to another. Weeds may gain entrance to the farm or be dispersed over a wider area in one of the following ways:—

1. As Impurities in the seed sown.—Most samples of agricultural seeds contain weed seeds in greater, or less amount, which are sown with the useful seeds and thus the weeds may, quite unknown to the farmer, gain an entrance on to his land. The seed sown should be absolutely free from weeds of all kinds—a condition of things which is seldom realized.

2. By the agency of threshing machines.—The threshing machine should be thoroughly cleaned before it is allowed to begin operations on the farm.

3. In stable manure, and feeding stuffs.—Hay and feeding stuffs often contain weed seeds, some of which are liable to find their way into the manure heap and eventually on to the land. Some seeds can pass through the bodies of animals and afterwards germinate.

4. By the action of the wind.—Many seeds, such as those of Dandelion and Thistle, are furnished with a tuft of hairs which enables them to float in the air for long distances. In other cases the seeds or even the whole plant may be blown over the frozen surface of the snow.

5. By the agency of animals.—The seeds, or those parts of plants which contain the seeds, as in the case of Blue Bur and Burdock, are provided with hooks by means of which they become attached to the wool of sheep or the clothing of workers on the farm and in this way may be carried into fields where formerly they did not exist.

6. By Cultivation.—In some plants, especially those with creeping underground stems, such as Quack grass, the broken pieces may be carried all over the field by farm implements and thus dispersed over a much wider area than the parent plants originally occupied.—*Experimental Farms Note.*

TENDERS ASKED FOR BY THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT

Firms desirous of tendering for any Government Supplies should apply to the War Purchasing Commission, Booth Building, Ottawa, giving particulars of the business in which they are engaged and a list of the articles they wish to supply.

Tenders are constantly being invited by the different departments of the Government, tender forms and specifications being distributed by mail to all individuals or firms concerned, known to the Commission.

The War Purchasing Commission keeps a register of the different firms and lines of business they are interested in, and it is, therefore, advisable that those wishing to have tender forms sent them should register their names, addresses, catalogues, etc., with the War Purchasing Commission, which co-operates with all other departments.

Tenders have been invited by the different departments of the Dominion Government between April 19 and 25, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY BRANCH)
Stormographs Ottawa April 23

DEPARTMENT OF SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT—
Induction motors Hamilton April 28
Dressing gowns Ottawa May 10
Needles, wool Montreal April 29
Tweed suits Ottawa May 3
Knives " " 3
Spoons " " 3
Forks " " 3
Spruce crating Guelph " 3

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—
Timber and lumber Port Dover May 2
Lumber Bathurst " 3
Ballast poles " " 3
Ballast " " 3
Drift bolts " " 3
Desks, flat-top Ottawa " 3
High stools " " 3
Telephone stands " " 3
Side chairs " " 3

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (PENITENTIARIES BRANCH)—
Lumber St. Vincent de Paul April 30
Electric lamps " " 30
Coal, R. of M. Dorchester May 5
Steel shingles Stony Mountain " 5
Sheathing paper " " 5

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—
Grey frieze Ottawa May 7
Blue and grey melton " " 7

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS—
Timber and scantling Dunnville May 3

PUBLIC PRINTING AND STATIONERY (STATIONERY BRANCH)—
White wove envelopes, No. 8 O.S., printed Ottawa May 5
White wove envelopes, No. 11 O.S., printed " " 5
White wove writing paper " " 5

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE—
Surgical supplies Kingston May 5
Glassware Ottawa " 5
X-Ray supplies Winnipeg " 5
Tablets Ottawa April 30
X-Ray supplies Regina May 5
Drugs Ottawa " 5
Steel Quebec April 30
Trunks Ottawa May 15
Fire extinguishers " April 29
Fresh vegetables London " 25
Fish Brandon, Man. " 29
Fresh vegetables Regina " 29
Laundry Qualicum Beach Hospital May 3
Cream, butter, milk, and ice cream Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que. " 2
Removal ashes Belleville, Ont. April 29
Bacon Hamilton " 28
Bacon Toronto May 3
Bacon Kingston April 29
Tires and tubes Ottawa May 6
Tow lines " " 6
Butter Toronto April 30

Sales of Surplus Stores.

Blankets—in bales of 50 and cases of 100—
Ontario and Quebec April 25
Maritime and Western Provinces May 15
Boot laces—in lots of 120 dozen pairs " 13
Canvas rest shoes—in lots of 300 pairs of one style.
Two styles: (1) Leather soles; (2) fibre soles " 14
Boots—British pattern—in lots of 100 pairs " 14
Overshoes—in lots of 100 pairs " 15
Rubbers—in lots of 100 pairs " 16
Corn brooms—in lots of 12 dozen " 17
Dubbin—in lots of 7-gross tins " 17
Overalls—in lots of 300 pairs " 19
Braces—in lots of 12 dozen pairs " 19
Trousers, working—in lots of 300 pairs " 19