



CANADA

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THE CANADIAN URANIUM INDUSTRY

(Excerpts from a paper entitled "Uranium in the Western World" by S.W. Clarkson, published recently by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited)

In 1958 about 13,500 tons of U308 were produced in Canada valued at approximately \$275 million. Uranium contributed no less than 25 per cent of the total value of all metallic mineral production in Canada. It was substantially more important than the next important minerals, nickel, iron-ore, gold or copper.

In the vital export market uranium contributed 5.7 per cent of the value of all Canadian exports. As an export commodity, it was exceeded in importance only by wheat, paper, pulp and lumber. It was more important than aluminum, nickel, copper, aircraft and iron-ore, which followed it in that order. If we consider our trade with the United States, uranium made up 9.3 per cent of the value of all exports to that market and was second in importance only to newsprint.

The uranium industry has grown in the short space of a few years from a small mining industry to one of the nation's largest and most important activities. New towns have been established, bringing with them all the necessary accoutrements for community living. An increasing number of people employed particularly in transportation and the service industries, while not directly engaged by the uranium industry, rely upon it for their livelihood. The risks of a primary producer are great, and when new semi-isolated communities are completely dependent on the international

market for a single staple product, even a minor dip in world demand can be a disaster to particular areas.

The Nova Scotia coal industry provides an interesting analogy. With an annual production of around 6 million tons, valued at about \$50 million at the mine, the industry has a labour force of from 10,000 to 12,000 employees. In order to maintain production the industry requires a Federal transportation subsidy of about \$7 to \$8 million per year. It has been estimated that 120,000 people are wholly dependent upon the Nova Scotia coal industry for their support.

By contrast, 14,000 people were employed by the uranium industry early in 1959. The value of the product was more than five times that of Nova Scotia coal. Wages in the uranium industry are above the Canadian mining average. No estimate of the number of Canadians totally dependent upon the industry for their support will be made except to note that it could exceed the estimate for Nova Scotia coal because of the higher average income in the uranium industry.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Under the early tripartite agreement among Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, the Eldorado mine on Great Bear Lake began producing on a large scale in 1942. In

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