CENTRAL CANADA'S FUEL PROBLEM

Alberta One of the Possible Sources of Supply—Production and Transportation Questions.

One of the possible sources of a Canadian coal supply for Ontario and Quebec is the province of Alberta and it is with the possibilities and problems of this source that the present article deals.

Alberta has immense resources of coal. The problem is how to get it to far away Ontario and Quebec as a cost low enough to enable it to compete with coal from the nearby United States. In fact, the province contains seventeen per cent. of the coal resources of the world, and about eighty per cent. of the coal resources of Canada. D. B. Dowling, of the Geological Survey of Canada, in "The Coal Resources of the World," has estimated that Alberta contains an actual reserve of over 385,000 million tons and a probable reserve of about 674,000 million tons. This makes a total reserve for the province of considerably over 1,000,000 million tons.

A close geological study of the Drumheller area, one of the principal producing areas of Alberta, shows that it alone will be equal to the needs of many future generations. The yield, it is estimated, will amount to approximately 1,200 tons per acre foot with an aggregate of ten feet of workable coal over at least 6,000 acres. Geolopists estimate the reserve amounts to nearly 100 million tons.

With reserves such as these, it may be confidently predicted that coal mining in Alberta is only in its infancy. The industry began in 1881 when coal was dug from the baks of the river at Lethbridge. A little later a mine was opened at Anthracite on the main line of the C.P.R. from which coal was obtained for the use of locomotives and boilers in connection with the heavy construction work encountered in building that railway through the Rocky Mountains. From this small beginning the industry has grown till today there are 380 mines in operation, producing in the neighborhood of 6,000,000 tons per annum, and giving employment to over 6,500 persons.

The problem of the industry in Alberta has been to find markets for the large tonnage which it is possible to produce. Post war conditions and labor troubles in the United States of recent years have so increased the cost of United States anthracite, the fuel which has until lately almost monopolized the market in Central Canada, that an opening was created for the Alberta product in this populous area. Experimental shipments were made to Ontario and the public was convinced that Alberta coal was a most desirable domestic fuel. Freight rates were high, however, and the question was, could it compete with United States anthracite when conditions across the border became normal.

Last year the Canadian National Railways cut their rate temporarily on coal from Alberta to Ontario to $7 a ton in an effort to encourage and popularize its use east of the Great Lakes. The continuation of this low rate, it was intimated, was conditional on the operators likewise reducing their rates in order to extend the market. Unfortunately, production costs due to the large number of mines operating only a part of the year and the ease with which new mines can be opened when demand increases, have always been comparatively high. This season further complications have been injected into the problem by serious labor troubles. In the Drumheller district, for instance, the output for March was only 35 per cent. of normal. Of 22 mines only 3 worked continuously and these were forced to close for two or three days per week during the first three months of the present year. In District No. 16, one of the large producing districts in Alberta, the operators claim that wages amount to 65 per cent. of the total cost of production. The result has been that, due to these causes and also in part to the short season during which the mines are operated, high production costs have continued.

This situation has given United States coal a chance to enter even the market west of the Great Lakes, a market in which Western Canadian coal gained supremacy during and immediately after the close of the war. This area, which now imports around 2,000,000 tons annually, is a natural preserve for Alberta and Western Canada coal. United States coal interests, however, are making a strong bid for it, and they have the advantage not only of being highly organized but also of favorable transportation to the head of the lakes in boats returning there for cargoes of grain. When the navigation season is closed by winter this coal is hauled west from Port Arthur and Fort William as return freight in grain cars that would otherwise have to return empty.

While Alberta has all the natural facilities for developing a large and profitable coal mining industry it is apparent that some radical changes will have to be made in organization before the industry comes into its own. Overdevelopment is probably the chief trouble to-day, and some system is needed for regulating the opening up of new mines until there is an assured market for their product. The productive capacity is four times the demand, so there is a problem also of getting more markets. The Central Canada market together with the one west of the Great Lakes are natural selling fields, and there are prospects too for developing a market in Vancouver and Seattle for bunkering of grain cargo ships. As soon as Alberta coal can be placed on these markets on a sound economic basis there is little doubt there will be an effective demand.

Cadet Rumbold, eleven years old, is the youngest sailor cadet in the British Isles. The young lad is shown being initiated into the art of splicing on board H.M.S. Worcester.

Old Times.

There are no days like the good old days—
The days when we were youthful!
When humankind were pure of mind,
And speech and deeds were truthful.
Before a love for sordid gold
Became man's ruling passion,
And before each dame and maid became
Slave to the tyrant fashion!

There are no girls like the good old girls—
Against the world I'd stake 'em,
As buxom and smart and clean of heart
As the Lord knew how to make 'em.
They were rich in spirit and common-sense,
And piety all supportin';
They could bake and brew, and had taught school, too,
And they made such likely courtin'.

There are no boys like the good old boys,
When we were boys together;
When the grass was sweet to the brown bare feet,
That dimpled the laughing heather.
When the peewee sung to the summer dawn,
Of the bee in the billowy clover,
Or down by the mill the whip-poor-will
Echoed his night song over.

There is no love like the good old love—
The love that mother gave us,
We are old, old men, yet we pine again
For that precious grace, God gave us!
So we dream and dream of the good old times,
And our hearts grow tenderer, fonder,
As those dear old dreams bring soothing gleams
Of heaven away off yonder.

—Eugene Field.

Foolhardy.

"Owing to a severe storm the surf was so dangerous that the authorities forbade bathing from the beach. The young woman, however, a strong and courageous swimmer, insisted on putting on her bathing suit and entering the water. She was caught in the undertow, swept out to sea and drowned." So reads the newspaper dispatch. How many fine young men and women, now dead, would be alive to-day if good swimmers were as ready to use their reason and common sense as they are to display their strength and courage!

A Sharp Answer.

"The difference between a woman and a glass," remarked the funny man, "is that the glass reflects without speaking, while a woman speaks without reflecting.

"And the difference between you and a glass," said the sharp girl, "is that the glass is polished."

No serviceable tooth should be pulled until after a consultation between dentist and physician, according to the theory of a professor of an American University.

Canadian Wheat and Flour.

The remarkable development of the demand for flour in the Far Eastern markets and its satisfaction by the shipment of Canadian wheat and flour through Vancouver, constitutes in the view of the London Times a grave danger to the British food supply. In an editorial the Times notes that whereas in 1922-23 there were exported through Vancouver alone 770,000 bushels of wheat to China and 2,610,000 bushels to Japan, in the following year exports to China had increased to 5,206,000 bushels and to Japan to 7,058,000 bushels. During the same period exports of flour had increased from 99,000 barrels to 302,000 barrels to Hong Kong, and from 270,000 barrels to 504,000 barrels to China. Reviewing the population figures, the Times continues:

"It is clear that there is nothing inherently improbable in a further rapid increase of the demand for wheat and flour in the Chinese market in the near future, and it is equally clear that such a demand must be met from a surplus production for which these islands compete. The development of modern milling in Shanghai and other ports in China in recent years has ben amazing, and it costs less to bring wheat to Shanghai across the Pacific than from the northwestern province of China. This year the lateness of the grain crop in Western Canada will probably result in the exportation of a larger portion through Vancouver than through Montreal by water. It would not be right to declare the situation is alarming, but no one who looks to the future rather than at the immediate present, can fail to recognize that if this country is compelled to continue to import four-fifths of its wheat requirements, it is impossible to view without anxiety the development of an important competition for the surplus supplies which are now available."

Fortune From a Wink.

Jackie Coogan, the infant prodigy of the film world, was discovered by Charlie Chaplin on the platform of a Pennsylvania railway station.

Chaplin was walking up and down waiting for a train when he was struck by th piquant face of the child. As he looked at him admirably the small boy suddenly and gravely winked at him. His intense gravity and self-possession decided Charlie Chaplin that Jackie must be secured for the films at once.

Jackie Coogan's first appearance was in Chaplin's six-part film, "The Kid."

Wasting Energy.

Kit's mother is a keen motorist, and as a result Kit, though only three, is familiar with all sorts of motoring terms.

The other day the cat was lying purring loudly outside the front door. Kit stooped to pat him, and turning to his mother said, earnestly:

"Pussy ought to shut off the engine, oughtn't he, mummy, when he's stopping outside a house?"

CANADA'S BIG GAME RESOURCES

International Meeting Indicates the Dominion's Fortunate Position—Distribution of Game in Quebec.

That Canada was one of the most fortunate countries in regard to her resources in big game and all that this means for the health of the whole people was brought out at the recent meeting in Quebec of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners. At this meeting of the association, of which Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Canadian National Parks, Department of the Interior, was elected president, delegates attended from many parts of the continent, and Canada's preeminence in big game was stressed. Much valuable work was done in the exchange of views and in the reaching of decisions which will lead to the strengthening and harmonizing of game laws throughout North America.

One of the most informative papers was that of Mr. J. A. Bellisle, Superintendent of Game and Fisheries for the province of Quebec, who in the course of his address on "How Quebec Protects its Game" spoke of the distribution of game in that province. While Mr. Bellisle dealt only with Quebec his paper gave an idea of the great resource Canada has in game in the forested portions of the different provinces.

Following are extracts taken from Mr. Bellisle's paper:—

"The Lake Edward country has long been renowned for the large number of moose that have been secured there. So are many other parts of our north country, especially in the Rivire a Pierre, Riviere Vermilion, Peribonca, Lake St. John, and Saguenay districts. Chicoutimi is also the centre of a first-class moose and caribou country, and so are the headwaters of the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers. Moose are plentiful in the forests along the St. Maurice river and the line of the National Transcontinental Railway, west of the Lake St. John country.

"As to the Ottawa district and its enormous back country, the Mattawa, Kipawa and Timiskaming regions, it may be said that moose, caribou and deer are all found there. Partridges, wild ducks and wild geese also abound in their seasons. All the country watered by the Dumoine and Maganasibi and neighboring rivers is full of large game, constituting a phenomenal hunting ground. In the Mattawa district, big game is not as plentiful as it once was, but there is more of it farther north, in and about the Kipawa country.

"On the south side of the St. Lawrence red deer are plentiful in almost every part of the Eastern Townships, where any wild forest land remains, and also in the counties of Nicelot, Lotbiniere, Beauce, Dorchester, Bellechasse, Montmagny, l'Islet, Kamouraska and parts of Temiscouata, as well as in the wilder portions of Compton and Megantic.

"Almost the whole of that part of the southern portion of the province of Quebec, adjacent to the state of Maine, is an unsettled wilderness, and is full of big game. Many moose as well as red deer, roam the forests of Beauce and around Lake Megantic. Moose are wonderfully plentiful in the Temiscouata country, as well as in Montmagny and Rimouski, and immense numbers of them roam undisturbed over thousands of square miles of virgin forest, in the heart of the Gaspe peninsula. Here they find a safe asylum in the Gaspesian Forest, Fish and Game reserve, while thousands of caribou find a fairly secure retreat in the forests along the Patapedia and about the headwaters of the Matapedia in the interior of Rimouski and Matane, as well as at the headwaters of the rivers flowing into Gaspe Basin."

According to Plan.

Although it was rather late in the year, it was a warm, fine day on the sands, and the three little boys were very happy with their spades and buckets, each intent on his own particular piece of work.

They had organized a kind of competition between them. This morning they agreed that each should build a model of a motor car. One of them had piled and patted and cajoled the sand into a resemblance of a racing car, another had constructed, with fair success, a touring car. But the third little fellow's construction was without shape or form.

"What sort of a car is yours?" asked a passer-by, who was taking an interest in the proceedings.

The boy made no reply.

"Yours looks like two or three cars all together," he was told.

"Yes," answered the little chap loftily, "That's just what it is. Mine's a collision."

Hammer Still In Use.

"An old Greek philosopher says the invention of music was brought about through the sounds made by hammers."

"Undoubtedly true. The girl who gave him that idea is still hammering away in the apartment right next to ours!"

Interesting Data on Ottawa Valley Quake.

Earthquakes are, fortunately, almost unknown in Canada. One occurs from time to time along the St. Lawrence river below Quebec and occasionally, but more rarely, a tremor is felt in British Columbia. In the Ottawa valley very slight shocks happen every three or four years and such an earthquake was felt by many persons in that valley on the evening of July 14 last.

The shock was recorded on the seismograph at the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, the first preliminary tremors beginning at ten minutes and nineteen seconds after seven p.m., eastern standard time and continuing until seven-fifteen. As usual in such cases the Seismologic Division of the Dominion Observatory sent out questionnaires to the postmasters in those sections of the country likely to be axected but the mas of data received in reply to the five hundred forms mailed has not yet been completely worked up. No damage was done at any point.

The results to date from the questionnaires indicate that the epicentre of the quake was near the Ottawa river and in that section bordered by the county of Renfrew, Ontario. They show that the "fault line" or line of weakness, lies along the Ottawa river and also along the valley of the Gatineau. The noise phenomenon was particularly marked and seemed to indicate that the quake moved from southwest to northeast in many cases.

Snakes as Barometers.

According to an old weather superstition rain is foretold by the appearance and activity of snakes.

COMPASS DOES NOT POINT NORTH

The magnetic compass has been used for more than 600 years and today is more widely employed than ever before; by miners underground, by explorers, travellers, hunters, trappers, prospectors, pioneers, timber cruisers and others overland, by navigators on the seas; and by airmen high above the earth. With this small, delicate, restless instrument they are enabled to tell direction. Yet contrary to popular belief the magnetic compass does not point due north, but more or less eastward or westward of it at different places. At Halifax it points twenty-two degrees west of north, at Vancouver twenty-five degrees east of north, while at Fort McPherson, on the Mackenzie river, within the Arctic circle, it points forty-four degrees east of north. Scientists state that this is because the magnetic poles of the earth are not situated at the geographical poles as shown on our maps of the world.

Changes From Year to Year.

The problem of the compass is still further complicated by the fact that it changes its direction from year to year: it marches to the westward for many years, then turns backward and marches to the eastward, then reverses again and marches to the westward, etc. Moreover, its very confusing behaviour is quite different in different places. Whether this is caused by a shifting of the magnetic poles, by changes within the earth itself, or by some influence of the sun or planets, scientists have not yet been able to determine.

Surveys Necessary.

In order that the compass may be used with reliance, therefore, the different countries of the world carry out magnetic surveys to measure its exact direction, and supply the information to the public in the form of magnetic maps. Owing to the continual shifting or "march" of the compass, as it is called, the work accomplished by a magnetic survey would become obsolete unless proper corrections are applied; so this march is measured at certain points and the work corrected accordingly from time to time.

Canadian Survey One of Largest.

This information is particularly valuable in such a large new country as Canada, and it is therefore interesting to note that one of the largest magnetic surveys in the world is being made in this country by the Topographical Survey of Canada whose field parties cover such wide areas on their land surveys. The cost is very slight because these measurements take but a minute or two and are made during spare moments in the land surveys.

The magnitude of the work accomplished since it commenced in 1880 is shown by the fact that nearly 20,000 of those measurements have been made already and maps published, showing the results, for compass users.

The Earl of Beauchamp has been elected leader of the Liberals in the House of Lords to succeed Viscount Grey of Fallowdon, who resigned the post recently because of ill-health.

Great Minds Think Alike.

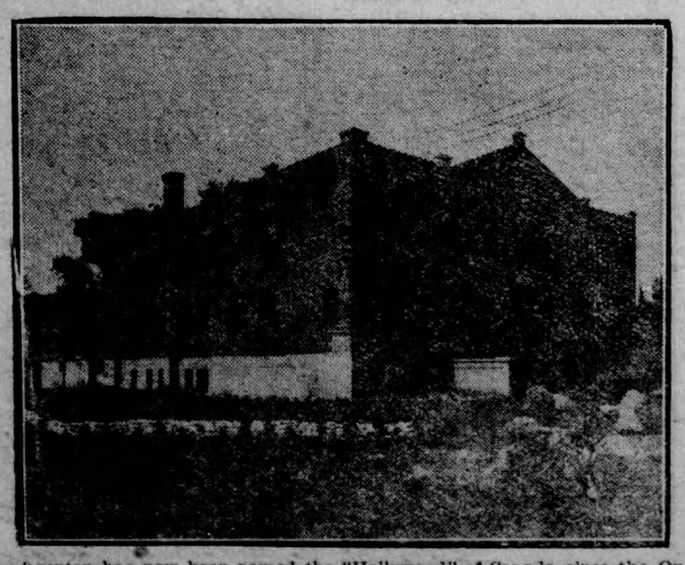
Pat had been hurt. It wasn't much more than a scratch, but his employer, with visions of being obliged to keep him for the rest of his life, sent him to a hospital for examination. The doctor said:

"As subcutaneous abrasion is not observable, I do not think there is any reason to apprehend tegumental cicatrization of the wound."

"Ah," said Pat in relief, "ye took the very words out of me mouth."

Baby Seals Fear Water.

Baby seals are afraid of water, and have to learn to swim by repeated efforts. When once they have been taught to swim, however, they soon forget to walk.



Trenton has now been named the "Hollywood" of Canada since the Ontario government has established a motion picture bureau there. Here is the studio, which is fully equipped for film work.

Stories About Well-Known People

The Embarrassed Judge.

Here is a story of Lord Darling in the days when he was Mr. Justice Darling:—

The famous judge was in a train which had halted at a wayside station. A man came up to the carriage door and asked if he were addressing Mr. Justice Darling. On being told that he was, he said: "Oh, we have a kind of connection with you. You sentenced my father to death not long ago." The judge murmured some words of regret. "Not at all," said the man. "Father was a dreadful man. He murdered our mother."

"Dear me!" said the judge; "a terrible tragedy for you all."

"Not at all," said the other again. "Mother treated us all shamefully. In fact, wrong as it was, it solved a great many problems for us."

A Great Find.

Most people know what great interest Lord Cowdray took in the search for oil wells in Britain. The engineer in charge of one of the boring parties sent Lord Cowdray a bottle of crude oil to be analysed. Lord Cowdray gave the bottle to a maid to take to an analytical chemist. By mistake the girl picked up the wrong bottle.

Soon afterwards the engineer received this wire: "Congratulations. Your fortune is made. You have struck paregoric!"

Making Balfour Blush.

Probably the most famous bachelor of to-day is Lord Balfour, who has persistently shunned matrimony, in spite of rumor's efforts to couple his name with that of some fair lady. This "chronic" singleness has not been without its amusing side. Once, when he was Mr. A. J. Balfour, he was staying at a hotel when a postcard was brought to him. It read, "Baby going on nicely. I really think she has grown since you left."

He blushed deeply and felt very embarrassed—until it was discovered that there was another A. J. B. among the guests.

Trials of Portrait-Painters.

There are times when the most successful portrait-painters feel a loathing for their craft. Millais, though he made a point of having four months' holiday out of the twelve, could earn $200,000 a year. Yet he told a friend that he detested portrait-painting.

"It is killing work to an artist who is sensitive. You have only yourself to please in other pictures. In portraits you have also to please the sitter and the sitter's friends and relations."

Mr. Sargent, who has received as much as $50,000 for a single portrait, declared some years ago that he would paint no more portraits, and for a period clung to this resolve.

"Some sitters get on my nerves so intensely," he says, "that I have to retire every now and then behind a screen, and put out my tongue to relieve my feelings!"

Portraits which the critics admire may fail to please the original.

"Why is my face so red I look as if I had been drinking," complained Cardinal Manning, on seeing his portrait by Millais—one of the finest portraits in the world, according to Ford Madox Brown.