

# Better Days Are Predicted For Western Canada Coal

By KEITH KINCAID  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
CALGARY (CP) — Better days may be in store for the faltering and market-starved western Canadian coal industry.

The mines are waiting with "guarded optimism" for announcements this year which could put the industry back on its feet and return 4,000 miners to the pits.

Belief could come from two directions: Increased domestic sales and renewal of pre-war export contracts, particularly with Far Eastern countries.

Alvin Hamilton, federal minister of natural resources, said in Calgary recently the government is drawing up plans to keep the miners busy. He hinted a federal announcement on two schemes may be forthcoming later this winter.

SALES TO FAR EAST?

He predicted greater use will be made of coal as a producer of electricity and said negotiations are in progress with several countries in the Far East.

Fifteen years ago coal mining was second only to agriculture in Alberta as a revenue producer. Since 1950, however, the increasing use of natural gas in homes and the changeover to diesel from steam locomotives by the railways has all but closed the traditional markets.

A few months ago a nine-man delegation from the Dominion Coal Board and the Coal Operators' Association of Western Canada visited Japan to explore

the possibility of selling coal to Japan's booming steel mills.

The trip was organized after two Japanese coal missions visited Alberta and British Columbia coal mines to determine whether the area's coking coal could be used in Japanese industry. As a result several sample shipments were sent to Japan from Canmore, Alta., mines.

W. C. Whittaker, manager of the Coal Operators' Association, said it is still too early to predict what tonnage of Canadian coal Japan will take but he was optimistic that some sort of deal would be made.

Japanese steel mills will require 8,000,000 tons of good quality coking coal during the next five years. Canada's chief market competition for the Far East market comes from Australia, which also produces a high-quality coke.

The Japanese coking requirement is almost four times Alberta's total coal production in 1958.

The provincial department of mines and minerals reported production for the first 11 months of 1958 reached 2,137,132 tons — a drop of 682,050 tons or 30 per cent from 1957.

The slump has brought hardships to residents of the southwestern part of the province where most of the mines are located. In 1950 the mines had a payroll of \$24,000,000 and spent \$40,000,000 in other production costs. In 1957 they had a \$11,000,000 payroll and spent \$23,000,000 in production.

Coal mining in western Canada

# Fish Landings In December Worth \$28 Million In Mar.

Fish landings in the Maritimes during the last month of 1958 were officially recorded at 24.3 million lbs., for a value to fishermen of \$2.8 million, the department of fisheries and the Dominion bureau of statistics announced yesterday.

While this showed a significant decline in volume from the previous month — approximately 23 million lbs. — it did represent an increase of 2.7 million lbs., or \$0.5 million over the landings of December last year.

The decline in fish landings from November to December is a seasonal occurrence. In 1958, although the volume declined by approximately 50 per cent, the value to fishermen was \$0.7 million higher in December than in November.

This was due to the relatively high proportion of the higher priced species in the catch, particularly lobsters, following the opening of the lobster season on December 1 in south-western Nova Scotia and in Saint John County, New Brunswick.

Except for the lobster catch which increased from 7 million lbs., in November to 3.9 million lbs., in December, a decline in December landings was registered in practically all commercial species: Groundfish landings recorded a drop of 13 million lbs., the principal species affected were cod, haddock, redfish and flatfish. Pelagic and estuarial species together showed a decrease of 12.4 million lbs., which was accounted for almost entirely by the drop in herring landings.

Taking the year as a whole the fishermen of the Maritimes fared somewhat better in 1958 than they did in 1957. Total fish landings to the end of 1958 amounted to 660.8 million lbs., with a value of \$34.9 million. This gave fishermen \$2.2 million more than they received in 1957 even though their 1958 catch was lower by approximately 1 million lbs.

In Nova Scotia, fishermen landed 464.9 million lbs., of fish valued at \$24.0 million in 1958. These landings were 27.7 million lbs. higher than the quantity landed in Nova Scotia in 1957 with an increase in value of \$4.3 million. In New Brunswick fishermen landed 195.1 million lbs., of fish valued at \$7.3 \$2 million.

# Ferry Goes Into Service

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP) — The CNR vessel *Burin*, on loan to the Newfoundland Transportation Company, Saturday began carrying passengers between Portugal Cove and Bell Island in Conception Bay.

The company's own ferries, the *Kipawo* and the *Elmer Jones*, are laid up. The *Kipawo* was damaged when she grounded Thursday at Portugal Cove and the *Jones* is in drydock for her annual overhaul.

The *Kipawo* is expected to be back in service within a week.

SUDDEN INTEREST  
PRESQUE ISLE, Me. (AP) — There's a sudden international interest in Presque Isle, site of an air force base that will soon be one of the first operational Skunk-guided missile bases.

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# Redistribution In Cards But MP's Won't Like It

By DAVE McINTOSH  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
OTTAWA (CP) — There is nothing dearer to the heart of a politician than his own constituency, naturally enough.

That is why it will probably take the Commons committee on privileges and elections at least two years before it can reach any decision — if it can reach any at all — on what to do about redistribution of federal constituencies.

There are likely to be divisions between rural and urban members and even between members of the same party in adjoining ridings.

For instance, a member who knows he is particularly strong politically in one corner of his riding is extremely unhappy if this corner in redistribution is tacked on to another riding.

LOST HIS RIDING

In the 1952 redistribution, Prime Minister Diefenbaker, then in opposition, had his old riding of Lake Centre attached to Moose Jaw. He had to look for another constituency and fortunately for him, it on Prince Albert, which has returned him with big majorities since 1953.

Under the British North America Act, redistribution must be carried out every 10 years, which means the next one is scheduled for 1962.

When Mr. Diefenbaker was in opposition he proposed that redistribution be removed from the authority of Parliament and handed to an independent non-political commission. He also argued that federal redistribution should be carried out in concert with the provinces.

TO REVIEW ACT

The speech from the throne, which opened Parliament Thursday, said: "It will be proposed that the standing committee on privileges and elections review the Elections Act in preparation for subsequent legislation."

The government has given no firm indication whether this means the normal post-election attempt to tighten up the Elections Act or a full-scale inquiry into redistribution and methods of redistribution.

In 1955, the committee asked the government for a report on methods of redistribution in other countries. This report has been prepared but has not yet been handed to the committee.

# Back-To-Normal Waistline Trend Seen In Rome Fashions

ROME (AP) — The "empire period" of Roman fashion has had its decline and fall.

With few exceptions, notably that of Gregoriana, designers here have restored the natural waistline in their spring-summer collections.

Saturday was the last day of Rome fashion showings and the back-to-normal waistline trend is expected to continue this week in Florence where another group of Italian fashion houses will present their latest styles.

Up to now the high-level horizontal seam which marked last season's clothes has steadily receded, but never so far as the hip.

WAIST EFFECTS

Broad bands, belts and cummerbunds, building up from the waist, have figured importantly in several collections, particularly those of de Luca, Mingolini, Gugenheim and Eleanora Garnett.

While many beltless high-line dresses have been seen — indicating that empire fashions just don't die, they only slip away — Gregoriana was conspicuous for

having retained foreshortened bodices throughout.

Garnett, whose collection included the dynamic drape and flowing chiffon touch for which she is known, treated collars with careful consideration. Elsewhere in these Rome collections they were all but abolished.

Other designers whose spring creations were put on view included Princess Giovannelli, the weaver of the island, and Gattinoni.

Harking to a call of the wild theme, Giovannelli fastened her skirts like the feathers of a pheasant.

Gattinoni, in keeping with her trademark of conservative elegance, had a wardrobe full of diplomatic delights on display. Accordingly, ambassadors' wives in their daughters will be waist-band by day in two-inch self-belts and hip-free, by evening, in side-fullness skirts.

Golden shorts emerged during the showings as Italy's contribution to the summer vacation wardrobe. Woven stiffly from silk and lame, they glitter like gold pieces spilling from a pirate's board.

**NORTHAM**

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph MacLean and family, Bedford, N.S., spent their Christmas holidays with Mr. MacLean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan MacLean.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bovaird, St. John, N. B., spent their Christmas holidays with Mrs. Bovaird's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lealand Ellis, Northam, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles MacKay, Sydney, N.S., spent the week-end with Mrs. MacKay's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan McArthur and also attended the funeral of the late Athol Colwill on Sunday.

Miss Joan McArthur, Charlottetown, spent a few days visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace McArthur.

Mr. Bud Colton is spending a month's holiday with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kneebone, Boston, Mass. Congratulations are extended to Mr. Edmund Maynard, who celebrated his 95th birthday on Thursday, January 1st. Mr. Maynard is quite active and takes a keen interest in all activities of the community. His many friends wish him many more happy birthdays.

The funeral of the late Athol Colwill was held on Sunday, December 29th, and was largely

attended. A short service was held at his late residence then to the Presbyterian Church, Tyne Valley, with his pastor Rev. Mr. Fraser conducting the service, assisted by Rev. Mr. McNaughton. The flowers were many and beautiful testifying to the high esteem in which the deceased was held in the community. Interment was in the United Church cemetery.

Sincere and heartfelt sympathy is being extended to the widow and family of the late Athol Colwill, whose death occurred at Toronto on December 23rd.

Sincere sympathy is being extended to Mrs. Charlas Colwill and family upon the death of her son Athol Colwill.

On Saturday evening December 19th, the pupils of Northam School presented their annual Christmas concert under the direction of their teachers, Mrs. Birch and Miss Joan Birch. The program featured choruses, drills, dialogues and recitations. At the conclusion of the program Santa appeared to the delight of all the children and gave out the many presents. A vote of thanks was extended to the teachers for the work they had done to make the concert a success.

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