

### Coal Holds Lead In All Heating Fuels

It is reported that 55 per cent of all the heat and mechanical energy produced in this country from 1800 through 1950 was derived from coal.

In that long span of time, other fuels have waxed and waned in importance—wood, as an example, used to be second on the list but is no longer a source of power. But coal's position has not materially changed. Today, as centuries ago, it is a primary producer of energy, and in all probability it will retain this leadership.

It is authoritatively forecast that the demand for soft coal alone in the next 50 years will exceed the 31,000,000,000 tons of

anthracite and bituminous which have been consumed in the last century and a half. One reason for this is that we will probably need double our present power supply in the next two decades or so. Another is that we have abundant reserves of coal—and, equally important, a progressive and highly competitive coal industry which makes the most of them.

One phase of the coal industry's work is of exceptional interest. It lies in research which devises better ways to use coal, and also searches for new and valuable products that can be chemically derived from coal. The list of such products is a very long and varied one now. And the gates have barely been opened, the scientists believe. Coal's contribution to better living and working will continue to grow.

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