

Appendix 1: The Changing Organization of Capital in the  
 Bienfait/Estevan Coalfields, 1891–1998  
 (Major Operations)

**Souris Valley Coal Co.**, in Roche Percée, owned by Robert J. Hassard, from 1891 to 1905, was the first commercial-scale coal mine. Hassard sold it to the Taylor family of Winnipeg who renamed it **Western Dominion Collieries**. The Taylors established a new campsite, T aylorton, in 1919.

**Western Dominion Collieries**, owned by Taylor family from 1905 until 1927 when British capitalists invested for a major share. In 1939 J. R. Brodie's **Great West Coal Co.**, of Brandon, Manitoba, gained control. Brodie immediately amalgamated **Western Dominion Collieries** with **Truax-Traer Coal Co.**, and **Bienfait Mines Ltd.**, to form **Western Dominion Coal Mines Ltd.**. Brodie's **Souris Coal Distributors** acted as selling agency for most of the mines after 1924. **Manalta Corporation** of Calgary bought out Brodie in 1965 and renamed the company **Battle River Coal Co., Ltd.**

**The Briquette Plant**, started by government investment in 1921, it was an unsuccessful attempt to convert lignite coal into fuel briquettes. The plant was transferred to **Western Dominion Collieries** in 1927, but without much better luck. John H. MacDonald of Winnipeg bought the plant from the receivers in 1937 and was successful in creating barbecue briquettes. In 1968 **Luscar Ltd** bought the operation and it became the Char Division of Manitoba & Saskatchewan Coal Co.

**Prairie Coal Ltd: Utility Mine**, a large open pit strip-mine located at Boundary Dam, south of Estevan, and **Costello Mine**, at Roche Percée, owned by **Manalta Corporation** from 1970s until 1998 when **Luscar Ltd.**, of Edmonton gained control of **Manalta Corporation**.

**Shand Coal Co.**, owned and operated by J. G. Peterson from about 1915 to 1930.

**Old Mac Coal Co.**, extensive strip mine at Roche Percée, acquired by J. R. Brodie and then by **Manalta** in the 1960s.

**North-West Coal Co.**, 1932–1965, owned by Alex Konopaki and Dan Bozak of Bienfait. The owners and employees of this mine were men who had been blacklisted by the major mine owners after the 1931 miners' strike. Bought out by **Manalta** in 1965

**Manitoba & Saskatchewan Coal Co.**,

started by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1905, bought by Winnipeg capitalists in 1907 and operated at a campsite called Coalfields near Bienfait until 1965 when it was purchased by **Luscar Ltd.**, of Edmonton. It continued under that name until 1988 when it was renamed **Estevan Coal Corporation**. It opened a large strip mine at **Boundary Dam**.

**Bienfait Mines Ltd.**, was started by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1906 and leased to Maurice Hawkinson. It was known as **Hawkinson's Mine** and then as **Bienfait Commercial Coal Co.**, Ownership of this mine, which operated until 1940, changed several times. W. L. Hamilton and R. J. Hassard bought it in 1915. Hassard sold his share to J. R. Brodie in 1926; Hamilton sold his part to A. C. Wilson who sold out to R. J. Brodie.

**Crescent Collieries Coal Co.**, three miles west of Bienfait, owned by W. L. Hamilton and J. R. Brodie, from 1918 to 1940s.

**Eastern Collieries Ltd.**, owned by Herbert Wallace, and operated from 1920 to late 1940s.

**National Mines Ltd.**, owned by Hon. H. H. Stevens and other West Coast investors who took over some of Hawkinson's leases, around 1929.

**Truax-Traer Coal Co.**, of North Dakota and Chicago, purchased the **Big Lump Coal Co.**, from Eleazer W. Garner, former mayor of Estevan, and started a large strip-mining operation in 1930 with Garner as manager. J. R. Brodie took control in 1939. See **Western Dominion Coal Mines Ltd.**

**Manalta Corporation** of Calgary, and **Luscar Ltd.**, of Edmonton, controlled the Bienfait coalfields after 1965. In 1997 they both became public companies trading shares on the stock exchanges. Barely a year later, in November 1998, their rivalry ended when **Luscar Ltd.**, took over **Manalta's** assets to become the sole producer of coal in the Bienfait-Estevan field. With operations in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan, **Luscar Ltd.**, became the sixth largest coal producer in North America, employing over 3,000 people