

MINING—Continued.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF MINES.

SYDNEY COAL FIELD.—This district occupies the eastern shore of Cape Breton County. Its land area is estimated at 200 square miles, and it now forms the rim of an extensive coal field extending under the Atlantic. Fortunately, experience has proved that nearly all the seams can be followed in their subaqueous extension. Estimates based on the system of enquiry adopted by the Royal Commission on the duration of the coal supply of Great Britain, put the amount of available coal in these submarine areas, after making proper deductions for waste, etc., at not less than 2,000,000,000 tone.

The following section, taken in the Lingau district, will serve to show the thickness and relative positions of the best known seams:—

Seam.	Strata and Coal.	
	ft.	in
Seam A.....	3	...
".....	306	...
Carr.....	6	5
".....	190	...
Barnasois, or Hub.....	12	1
".....	379	3
Harbor, Victoria or Sydney.....	8	...
".....	235	...
Seam D.....	3	...
".....	78	...
North Head.....	4	...
".....	75	...
McAnley, Phelan, or Lingau.....	8	...
".....	95	...
Ross, or Emery.....	4	6
".....	340	...
Gardener.....	4	9

The coal field is remarkably free from disturbances, etc., and Professor Lesley, in a report, dwells strongly on this point.

Nearly all the seams lie at easy angles, yield little water, and owing to the generally firm character of the roof, they can be mined with unusual cheapness and safety. So strongly marked is the impermeable nature of the strata, that at a moderate depth the submarine workings are perfectly dry.

There are seams found underlying those given in the above section, and varying in thickness from two to eight feet, but in the presence of the seams cropping on the shore they have not hitherto attracted much attention.

The coals of this district are bituminous, and specially adapted for gas and coke making, and for steam purposes. The Sydney Mines coal is largely used in the Lower Provinces for domestic purposes. The gas values may be understood from the following test made of the Harbor seam coal:—

Gas, cubic foot per ton.....	10,000
Candle power.....	16
Coke, good, lbs.....	1,170

Official reports on this seam made to the Admiralty show that it contains 83.5 per centum of carbon and that it is practically equal to Welsh steam coal. Trials made on H. M. S. *Gannet* show that when mixed with twice its weight of the best Welsh coal, a saving of 12 per cent over the Welsh coal alone was obtained. Practical tests made some years ago for the United States Naval Department, showed a practical evaporative power of 7.9 lbs. for the Sydney seam. Similar tests and trials of the other seams show equally good results, and Sydney Harbor has become a well-known port of call for steamers requiring bunker coal. Newfoundland sealing steamers prefer Cape Breton coal to all other, owing to the rapidity with which it raises steam.

These coals have been largely used on Canadian railways, and are found to compare most favorably with the best imported coals, and in many cases are given the preference. As yet the slack coal has not been burned into coke, except in small amounts for the local foundries, but considerable quantities are shipped to the United States, where an economical fuel is made by mixing it with the dust of anthracite coal for use under ordinary steam boilers. The contemplated establishment of large iron and copper works on Sydney Harbor will afford a near market for both slack and coke.

The enormous amount of available coal contained in this district may be estimated from the Geological Survey Report, which states that the seams now opened contain, in the areas leased for the purpose of working them, over 212,000,000 tons. This estimate does not include the coal in the seams which are unopened in the land areas in operation, nor the values of the seams in the leases which are at present awaiting a favorable opportunity for development, which items would swell the coal supply of this district to figures representing many years output greatly exceeding any yet obtained.

In addition to the seams already recognized in the Sydney coal field as at present worked, there are, in the vicinity of Sydney, and in the Mira and Salmon River districts, extensive tracts of the upper part of the millstone grit in which are met coal seams, some of superior quality, which, although too small to be worked now in the presence of the large beds, must yield in the future an important supply of fuel.

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