

account of both quality and quantity of coal, facility of mining and accessibility, the others being of small prospective value, both in quantity and quality.

Broad Cove coal field.—Official report. Difficulties in shipping.

3. The Inspector of Mines for Nova Scotia, Mr. E. Gilpin, F.G.S., has made a report, at your request, of the Broad Cove Coal Field. In this report he estimates a possible quantity of Two Hundred Million Tons! An attempt was made to ship coal at one of the "headings," into small vessels, by means of a short railway and scows. Broad Cove is a long straight stretch of sandy beach, completely exposed to the Gulf storms. A stream, called "Big River," winds in a flat meadow, till it reaches the beach, which has blocked up its mouth and turned it aside to find an outlet, as best it may, towards the north. Across this beach, a trestle-work was erected, (which is still standing) upon which a railway was laid, for the conveyance of trucks to load the coal directly into vessels or scows on the shore, where the scows could not be brought into the river inside the beach. In this way, in four months, a quantity of 6,000 tons was mined and shipped, but the difficulties were such that this could not be continued.

Remaining coal mines at Port Hood, Cape Mabou, and Chimney Corner.

4. The Coal Mine at Port Hood was worked at one time, but has been abandoned partly on account of the difficulties in shipping, and partly because of the poor quality of coal and the expense of working. The coal is said to contain a large proportion of sulphur, and one seam only is known of a thickness of six feet. In 1869 a steamer took a load of coal from Port Hood to Toronto. It lay on the wharf and bleached, and for some years coal from the Maritime Provinces was not held in high estimation. The prospects of any considerable yield of coal at Cape Mabou are very small. At Chimney Corner there is only one four foot seam. At Broad Cove there is an aggregate thickness of thirty-six feet of seams, one of which is 14 feet thick and another 7 feet.

General description of the agricultural districts and list of other minerals to be found in Inverness and Victoria

5. The agricultural resources and capabilities of this part of Cape Breton are very considerable. It is the best part of the Island in this respect. The country is diversified by hill and dale, extensive meadows and fertile uplands. Besides the hay and pasture that these afford, the soil is generally rich, and capable of producing fine grain and root crops. The extensive table-lands of the "Mabou Highlands" at an elevation of about 1,000 feet above the sea, are well cultivated. The rolling hills and valleys, which on three sides surround Mabou, contain also numerous farms. There is Skye Glen, a wide valley of meadow, with fine slopes on the hillsides; Strath Lorne; the valley of Big River, having a wide stretch of meadow and farm lands. The Margaree district, in which may be included the valleys of both the South-western and North-eastern branches, as well as that of the main river to the sea, is one continuous meadow from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 mile in width, flanked on each side by sloping hillsides and large expanses of more level ground. The