

CHAPTER II.

THE CRETACEOUS COALS.

GEOLOGICAL NOTES.

As may be seen from the table of formations given in the previous chapter, there are at least three Cretaceous horizons at which accumulations of vegetable matter have been preserved in the form of coal seams.

UPPER CRETACEOUS.

The highest coal-bearing strata are represented on Vancouver and Queen Charlotte islands and have been classed respectively under the names, Nanaimo, and Queen Charlotte formations. These two formations may represent the same horizon or time interval, though this has not, as yet, been definitely ascertained. Both represent beds of Upper Cretaceous age and rest on Jurassic shales. Descriptions of these formations will be found in the reports on the Nanaimo and Graham Island coal-fields and will not be repeated here.

Dunvegan Group.

The coal-bearing beds of the Peace River district, the Dunvegan sandstones, were called by Dr. G. M. Dawson the Lower sandstones and shales, in the general description published in 1879. The name Dunvegan was introduced subsequently and was used by R. G. McConnell in his report on the Athabaska district in 1890. The general description of the formation as there given,¹ is here repeated.

¹Annual Report Geol. Surv., Can., Vol. V, 1890-91, pp. 54-55 D.