

REPORT on the "East River" Coal Area, Pictou, Nova Scotia, by J. W. DAWSON, F.R.S., F.S.G., Professor of Natural History, McGill University.

THE area of the East River Coal Company, extends to the south-eastward from the town of New Glasgow, about three miles, with a breadth of about half a mile, and lies in the northern and central portion of the Coal basin of the East River of Pictou, on the east side of that river.

The workable seams contained in the property, consist of certain upper seams not known on the west side of the East River, together with the equivalents of the lower seams which have long been mined on the west side, though their extension on the east side of the Coal field has only recently attracted attention. In this report, I shall notice these two groups of beds separately, and shall then refer to the extent and quantity of the Coal contained in them, and the most profitable means for its extraction.

I.—UPPER COAL SEAMS.

These upper beds crop out on the west end of the area with easterly dips. One of them, the "Stewart seam," has been opened in the adjoining property of the "General Mining Association," though the works are now abandoned. It is stated to be about three feet in thickness, its coal being of excellent quality. Its dip, as ascertained by examination of the associated beds exposed in the bed of "Potters Brook," is east at an angle of 40° . The strike of the "Stewart seam" carries it into the area of the East River Company; and following its direction a shaft has been sunk in the overlying measures, which has penetrated a bed of 2 feet 9 inches thick, known as the "Richardson seam."

This may possibly be the continuation of the "Stewart seam," but is more probably an overlying bed. The "Richardson seam" is now worked on a small scale in connection with a bed of fireclay, which forms its floor. The dip at the Richardson mine is to the south-east, shewing that the measures turn somewhat rapidly to the eastward in the space between it and the old workings in the Stewart seam. Following the outcrop to the eastward, there are indications of a further bend of the measures to the east; but the coal is not seen for a mile, where a bed known as the "Foster seam" is exposed on an old adit, a short distance to the northward of the property of the Company. This bed is 4 feet 4 inches thick, and dips at a small angle to the north-east. In a short space, however, the dip of the measures changes, and a little to the northward a slope has been sunk by the Montreal and New Glasgow Company on a bed 4 feet thick, dipping south 5° east, at an angle of 34° . This bed differs from the Foster seam in its character and accompaniments, and is probably an overlying seam. It has 6 inches of cannel