

steam purposes. My own object in taking up certain bonds in this important coal field was to determine its character for coking purposes and to ascertain how it compared with Fernie coal. The result you can best judge from the following analyses taken by me from comparatively shallow workings, the ash is certain to be less at greater depth:

	Fixed	Car.	Volatile	Ash.
No. 1.	63.4	29.1	7.4	
No. 2.	64.5	26.5	9.0	
No. 3.	67.7	25.5	6.8	
No. 4 (20 miles north of Blairmore). . .	58.9	28.5	11.8	
No. 5.	60.3	31.3	7.4	

Samples Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are all first-class coking coals; Nos. 4 and 5 good steam.

This coal field is so near to the Province of British Columbia that it will seek its natural market there for coal and coke, especially the latter, and the mode of occurrence of the seams being more favourable for cheap working than in the Pass, there is no reason why the cost of production may not offset the extra transportation, a matter of 30 to 50 miles. At any rate I am convinced that in less than two years from date we shall see coal and coke of satisfactory quality being produced in this district at the figures I have already named, to the enormous benefit of the various industries of Southern British Columbia.

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMOX COLLIERIES DURING THE YEAR.

(By John Matthews.)

MINING here during 1902 has been marked by a comparative freedom from accidents. The mines have been worked continuously, notwithstanding the keen competition of fuel oil in the California market. The high grade of this coal as a steam fuel insures it a ready market. The output for the year has been above the average and the outlook for the incoming year is better. There has been considerable development work done during the year; a railroad four miles in length has been constructed to connect No. 8 slope to the main line. No. 8 is a new mine and will be opened out by two slopes. It is situated two miles in a northerly direction from No. 4 slope. The ground was examined by the writer early in the spring, and the configuration of the surface was such that led to the conviction that coal would be found near the surface. A diamond drill was sent to the new prospect, and the work of boring pushed, which resulted in the main seam being discovered at a depth of a hundred feet from the surface. Four holes were put down, the last one which was 1,200 feet from the first hole, in the direction of the dip of the seam, struck the coal at a depth of 188 feet. The seam proved to be of very uniform thickness, averaging four feet and dipping about 1 in 12

to the northeast. The coal was of a compact texture and very clean.

Float was found in the creeks to the west and a thorough search was made, and the strike or outcrop of the coal was traced for two miles in a westerly direction to Brown's River, where a seam four feet thick was found, exposed in the bank of the river. This coal was also found to be of an unusually compact nature. A sample of 100 pounds from here and some of the cores of coal from No. 8 were sent to the company's geologist, Mr. Sutton, at Victoria. He, after making an assay of the sample sent, pronounced the coal to be a high-grade anthracite assaying a little over 80 per cent. carbon, while the percentage of ash was very low. Mr. Sutton was up here last month and spent a week exploring the ground and after a careful survey concluded that there was at least a field of one thousand acres of anthracite coal between No. 8 and Brown's River. The strike of the coal extends in a westerly direction from Brown's River, but an opinion cannot be given as to whether or not it is anthracite, as no tests have been made as to its quality. The value of this discovery cannot be over-estimated, as it will fill a want that has been long felt on the Coast.

After the discovery of coal at No. 8 the work of developing it was vigorously pushed. A site for a slope was selected and a large gang of men put to work slashing and clearing the ground. A large well-constructed pit-head has been erected and an hoisting engine put up, and the work of driving the slopes is progressing. The slopes dip 1 in 8 and will have to be driven through the surface measures (clay) to a depth of 95 feet before reaching the seam, which will take about four months to accomplish.

There is a most sanguine feeling in the town of Cumberland, the centre of the mining district, as a result of this new discovery. The mines are working steadily, the miners are doing well, and business is prosperous. An electric lighting system has been recently installed by a private company. A High School was opened here last September. The townspeople therefore, look forward, and with sufficient reason, to a prosperous future.

MINING IN THE YUKON.

IN reviewing the mining operations in the Yukon region for the past year, the *Sun*, published at Dawson, remarks that activity has been limited to the territory known as the Klondike and Indian River districts, which, however, has already produced gold to the value of a hundred million dollars. Our contemporary proceeds to remark that if this territory, which is but a small part of the known gold-bearing area, is capable of so large a production, it is reasonable to suppose that with the country opening up on a more extensive scale, with dredges, steam shovels and other modern appliances to work the low-grade grounds and with modern machinery to work the richer claims, that the output will be on the increase