

MARITIME MINING RECORD

Vol. 11, No. 15.

Stellarton, N. S., Feb. 10th. 1908. New Series

From the Mining and Metallurgical Report.

CUMBERLAND COAL FIELD.

This is the most westerly of the coal fields in the Province of Nova Scotia. It is situated in Cumberland county, its western extremity being bounded by Chignecto bay, which is the north western arm of the Bay of Fundy. In this field there are two coal producing areas, known as the Joggins, or Northern area, and the Springhill or Southern area, being separated by about fifteen miles of intervening country. The total area of this basin is about 350 square miles.

On the northern side, in the Joggins area, the following seams of workable size are known: At Joggins mine, two seams, respectively 4 feet and 6 feet in thickness; at River Herbert, one seam 5 feet in thickness, with two shale partings; at Maccan, two seams, the upper 2½ feet and the lower 4 1-2 feet in thickness; at Chignecto, a seam 9 1-2 feet in thickness, of which 2 1-2 feet are shale partings; at the Styles mine, the eastern extremity of the Joggins area one seam 7 8 inches in thickness. The dip of these seams is 17 degrees southerly at the Joggins mine, but gradually increasing as it goes eastward, to 45 degrees at Maccan.

The Cumberland Railway and Coal Co.

This Company holds under lease from the Crown, 82 sq. miles in Cumberland county, and 10 sq. miles in Cape Breton county. The Cumberland Co. areas are considered the most valuable in the district.

Three seams of coal are mined at Springhill, as follows; north, 11 feet thick; east, 11 feet thick; west, 10ft. 6in. thick. The north is the overlying seam, and is separated from the east seam by 300 feet of intervening strata. The east or middle seam, is separated from the west by 100 feet of intervening strata. These seams have practically the same strike, but the dip varies from 20 to 80 degrees.

Much prospecting work has been carried on here, and it is known that several other good workable seams exist. The coal is specially adapted for steam purposes, and an excellent coke has been made in beehive ovens at Londonderry, Nova Scotia, from a mixture of Springhill and Pictou coals.

The following is given by Dr. Gilpin as a general analysis of Springhill coal:—

Vol. comb. matter.....	28.55%
Fixed carbon.....	62.78
Moisture.....	3.66
Ash.....	4.32
Sulphur.....	1.26
Theo. evap. power.....	8.69

Pictou Coal Field.

The Pictou County coal field has an area of about fifty square miles, and although small it is of consider-

able geological interest. There are sixteen known seams, from 3 feet to 45 feet in thickness. Heavy faults cut up the district, and New Glasgow conglomerate, of a somewhat disputed age, separates it from the upper Carboniferous measures, in which no seam of workable thickness is known. It is one of the oldest mines worked in the Province, being part of the Duke of York's concessions. The nearest water shipments are those at Pictou harbour, about ten or fifteen miles distant from the mines. The coal is very largely used for steam purposes, and the manufacture of iron. It also furnishes an excellent coke, both from by-product and beehive ovens. The following collieries are included in this district; the Vale colliery, Thorburn; the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's areas, Thorburn, the Acadia Coal Company's areas, Stellarton; and the Intercolonial Coal Mining Company, Westville. The Intercolonial railway runs through the areas of the last named companies and connects them with the seaport. The Eastern fields are connected with the Intercolonial railway by the Vale Colliery railway, six miles in length, owned and operated by the Acadia Coal Company. As a matter of historical interest it may be mentioned that the first railway in British North America was built to connect these mines with the seaport, cars being hauled by the old locomotive Sampson, built by Timothy Hackworth in 1832. The Acadia Coal Co. was formed to acquire and work coal areas in Pictou county and elsewhere, in the Province of Nova Scotia. It controls sixteen square miles, held under lease from the Nova Scotia Government, subject to a royalty of ten cents per ton of coal mined.

The Intercolonial Company's property contains 7½ sq. miles of coal areas, upon which is the Drummond colliery at Westville, in Pictou Co. Nova Scotia.

The main and second seams are worked, the third and fourth being intact. The second seam is only in process of being opened up, and the following notes refer to the main seam alone; which is worked by slopes, size 12 ft x 8 ft, having an average dip of 16 degrees, and a length of 7,200 feet. The coal is good for steam, and household purposes, and makes excellent coke.

No. 1 slope is used exclusively for hoisting coal; No. 2 for hoisting second seam coal, lowering and raising men, also for dropping down timbers, materials etc.

Mode of working.—The seam is worked on the longwall system; each lift is 450 feet; the levels are south east and north-west 20 degrees; the dip is 2½ degrees on the north and 19 on the south side; counter balance planes are driven every 300 to 400 ft. The main levels of every lift are driven out to the extreme