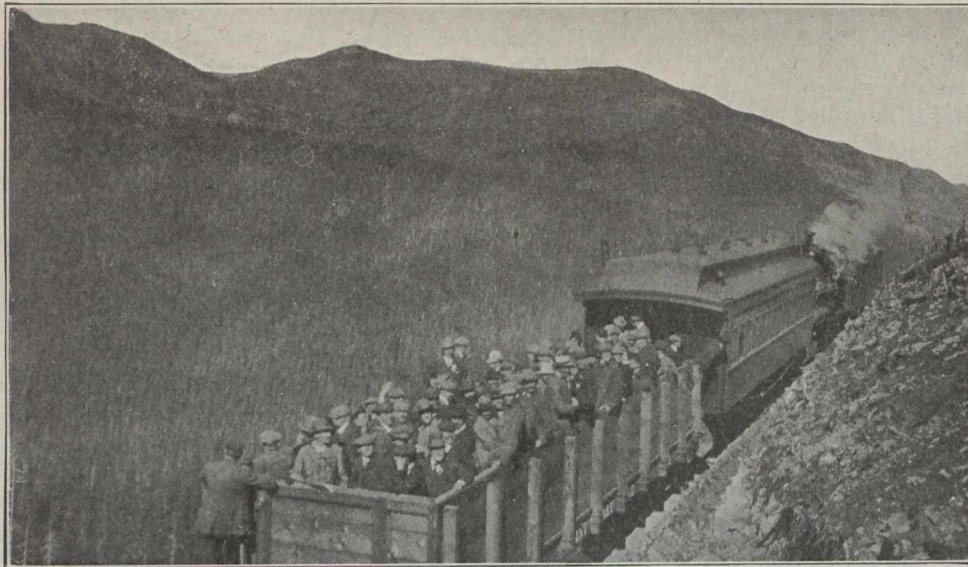




Geologists on way to Corbin coal mine, B.C.

of the rocks indicates that the two outcrops of coal are in reality parts of the same bed. A bed of sandstone stratigraphically below the coal shows distinct anticlinal structure, is succeeded by coal, slate and coal beds which are quite similar to those lower down the hill.

While the party was at the mine the manager showed them an operation unique in coal mining. A steam shovel working in the thick seam loaded a standard freight car in a few minutes. It would be possible to make an enormous output in this way at a low cost, but without selection the product is not of good grade, and it is not thought that the steam shovel will be in regular operation, though it may be used on occasion. In any case it will be possible to mine a large quantity very cheaply.

After viewing the thick seams, the party was led by Mr. Clapp, guide for the day, to the older workings and then down the hill to Corbin. The old workings are on much thinner seams. The thick seam has only re-

cently been explored and is not yet making a large production.

Coal Creek.

From Corbin the C2 special was taken down Michel creek to the Crow's Nest line, and then on to Fernie. From Fernie a special local train took the visitors to the mines and plant at Coal creek. There are several seams lying rather flat and cut by the valley. The tippie is located in the valley and ore is drawn from either side. The main seam at this mine is said to be about 30 feet thick and one of the best in the district. The other seams are considerably smaller, but some are very good coal. Besides the seams being worked there are others which are very high in hydrocarbons and which, when heated, melt and run on the grate. General Manager Wilson pointed out some of the peculiar features of the coal seams of the district. Notable ones are unusual crumpling or rolling of the seams making it difficult to



Mining coal with steam shovel. Corbin mine, B.C.