

EXTRACT FROM REPORT BY J. MCEVOY.¹

The Crowsnest coal-field is situated immediately west of the summit of the Rocky mountains on the Crowsnest pass. It is all included in the province of British Columbia, excepting a small portion in the immediate vicinity of the pass, which crosses the watershed into the district of Alberta. The area of Cretaceous rocks in the vicinity is nearly 500 square miles in extent. The coal-measures, originally deposited over the whole of the area, have been eroded away around the edges, where the rocks are crumpled and folded, and along some of the deeper valleys penetrating well into the area, so that their actual area is approximately 230 square miles. In shape, the area covered by the coal measures, like that of the Cretaceous basin itself, is, roughly speaking, a long pointed triangle, with its base to the south. Its greatest length is about thirty-five miles, north and south, and its greatest width about thirteen miles. These figures are, of course, only approximate as the work has not yet been plotted.

Coal is said to have been discovered in this part of the country many years ago. Its reported existence is alluded to in the Report of Progress of the Geological Survey for 1880-82 (p. 2 B). It is again referred to in the report for 1882-84 (p. 111 C). The coal-bearing area was approximately defined and examined in a preliminary way by Dr. G. M. Dawson in 1883. It was again visited after some prospecting had been done, by Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn in 1891².

The Crowsnest branch of the Canadian Pacific railway, descending Michel creek on the western slope of the mountains, crosses the northern part of the coal lands. It then follows the Elk river downward nearly along the line of the western boundary of the Cretaceous area, for a distance of about twenty-five miles. The upturned western edge of the Cretaceous rocks forms a ridge or escarpment which runs parallel to the Elk river and three or four miles distant therefrom. The height of the escarp-

¹Summ. Rep. Geol. Surv. 1900, pp. 85A-95A.

²See Annual Report, Geol. Surv., Can. (N. S.), Vol. I. (1885), Part B, and Summary Report, 1891.