

GRAND TRUNK SYSTEM

The general resources and characteristics of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to be served by the Company's lines, are primarily agricultural and grazing, but are now so well known that a description of same is largely a matter of form of expression.

In addition the Province of Alberta is also liberally supplied with coal areas, which abound chiefly in the wider valleys, and from the superior quality and amount of coal form very valuable coal fields. The foothill belt, although not well prospected, is known to contain many valuable areas, in which a softer grade of coal may be found. East of the foothill area lies a great extent of coal bearing rocks, which are comparatively undisturbed. The coal in this region, through which the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway passes from Edmonton to the Rocky Mountains, is well suited for domestic use, and as it is within the settlement belt—where wood is scarce—a demand for it is assured. These areas are designated as the Edmonton coals, and extend north from near the International boundary to near the Peace River, covering an area of at least 10,000 square miles, and containing an estimated content of 60,000,000,000 tons. The coals in this formation are generally lignites, but in the foothills grade up to bituminous. The foothill coal areas have a length of about 400 miles, and have an estimated area of possibly 2,000 square miles. This has been estimated to have possibly 11,000,000,000 tons as a total content. The area is enormous, embracing a total surface of about 12,000 square miles, and a possible coal content of 71,000,000,000 tons.

A branch line of railway is at present under construction from the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway west of Edmonton southerly for a distance of about 56 miles into the coal fields of the Pacific Pass Coal Company, and this branch will also serve the mines of the Yellowhead Pass Coal Company, situated at the headwaters of the Pembina, Em-