

St. Lawrence. To determine this, a methodical series of borings, with a diamond drill taking up solid cores, should be made at different points between Moncton and Bathurst, with at least a few others well located in the Miramichi and Buctouche valleys. From what has been said it will be obvious that there are but few if any features at the surface which can be of much assistance in determining the most favourable location for trial. Each boring would afford presumptive evidence for a considerable area around it, and a series of such holes could hardly leave much doubt as to the general questions involved. Even if the results were wholly negative, they would be of service in removing the present doubt upon the subject, and the possible useless expenditure of large amounts of capital.

While the question of the productive character of other portions of the Carboniferous area is still awaiting investigation, it is satisfactory in the meantime to know that efforts are being made to develop upon a larger scale and in a more systematic way, the deposits already known. Thus with the aid of the provincial government a railway is in course of construction from Chipman, near Grand lake, to Fredericton, which will make it possible to bring the coal from the beds of this region much more readily to market, while much greater care will be taken in the mining and handling of the product, thus avoiding to a considerable extent the crumbling and admixture with foreign matter which has previously done so much to depreciate this coal in the eyes of consumers. In return for the aid afforded by the government, the company building the road binds itself to establish on the line of railway a plant capable of mining an average of not less than 500 tons of coal per day. Owing to the proximity of the seam to the surface—at no point does it lie beneath more than 60 feet of cover, and usually this is much less—the coal can in many cases be most readily obtained by stripping, and machinery will be employed which will allow of this being done with great rapidity. When too deep for this purpose, the coal may still be removed with comparatively little labour by simply cutting trenches from the side of which the coal is removed for a certain distance, and the undermined soil-cap then allowed to fall in. It yet remains to be seen whether the great expectations as to the total yield per year of the field will be realized, but, as pointed out by the author and his associates in 1873, the aggregate amount of coal in the field is large, and, with the present high prices prevailing, should admit of profitable working upon a scale much larger than has been heretofore attempted.

Productive character of Carboniferous area not fully investigated.