

Water	2.10
Volatile combustible matter.....	21.54
Fixed carbon.....	71.63
Ash	4.73
	<hr/>
	100.00
	<hr/>

REGION EAST OF BOW AND BELLY RIVER DISTRICT. SOURIS DISTRICT.

The interior continental trough or basin of coal-bearing Cretaceous and Tertiary rocks is widest in the vicinity of the 49th parallel, in which region therefore, we find the coals and lignites extending much further east than they do on the North Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Peace Rivers. Eastward from the Bow and Belly district, the first known important locality is in the vicinity of Medicine Hat, on the South Saskatchewan.

Exposures of the Medicine Hat seam are found to occur on nearly every bend of the river from a point about thirty miles below the junction of the Bow and Belly to Medicine Hat. The seam is, however, more variable in thickness and character than many in this part of the North-west, and at two places on the river, scarcely a mile apart, changed from two feet in thickness of shaly, impure lignite, to six feet of very good lignite-coal. An exposure about ten miles above Medicine Hat showed two seams 4 feet 6 inches and 4 feet respectively in thickness. Three miles above Medicine Hat the coal is again well shown in the side of the river valley at a height of about eighty feet above the water level, with a thickness of 4 feet.

Since the above paragraph was written, the advance of the railway has lead to the opening of a mine at a point about six miles above Medicine Hat, on the north bank of the river, the seam worked here being from 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 4 inches in thickness. The mine has been connected by a branch line of about a mile in length with the railway, and the daily output has already surpassed a hundred tons. Other preliminary openings have been made in this vicinity, and the quantity of fuel which can be obtained is practically unlimited. In quality it is distinctly lignitic, resembling in composition, though not in texture, the better class of Souris Lignites. Actual