

1872, and the borings undertaken by the Keneh Company in 1903 were unfortunately not handed to the government, though promised when certain litigation should have been finished. I had an opportunity of inspecting the samples, which, however, showed no evidence of real coal-seams, nor did a subsequent effort by the Egyptian Coal Syndicate lead to a more definite result. The section of this bore down to 121.13 metres is given in Mr. Wells's report, showing alternation of gritty sandstones and shales, with traces of coal at 56.37 metres, between 65.54 and 67.51 metres, and at 87.27 metres, these being connected with black shales.

In the same report a description is given of a bore made by the Department of Mines at Abu Rahal, forty-five miles east of Edfu, in the desert valleys leading to the Baramia mine; the total depth of the bore was 71.3 m. (247 feet). Clays and sandstones followed by hard limestone or calcareous sandstone bands were passed through down to 43 m. At this level, below a fine grained sandstone with pyrites and containing a few leaves and plant remains, was a bituminous seam 27 cm. thick, followed by another at the 47.27 m. level, 17 cm. thick. Clays, chert bands, and argillaceous sandstones separated the bituminous seams.

At 53 metres down was a dark grey clay containing abundant specimens of *Lingula* and *Septifer linearis*, with scales of the fish *Lepidotus*, the whole indicating an Upper Cretaceous age. Finally, at 56.4 metres was another bituminous seam recorded as two metres thick, followed by alternating, banded sandstones and sandy marls. "All these seams contain appreciable quantities of bituminous coal in narrow seams and veins, and these burn with a long luminous flame."

Specimens of carbonized leaf-beds were also sent me by Mr. Earl Trevor from two localities, Abu Radham and Sakiet el Ter, which are in the Wadi Qena region, roughly near the intersection of lat. 27° N. and long. 33° E. Sandstones with plant remains are indeed widely extended in the Nubian sandstone, having been found in quantity at Wadi Halfa (lat. 22° N.) and at Gebel Serrag (some ten miles south of Edfu), while interesting finds of individual fern-leaves have been made by my colleagues, Messrs. Ferrar and Stewart, the latter obtaining a frond closely resembling the Wealden *Weichselia*.

Borings in Nubian sandstone areas have also revealed the presence of lignite, one of these being in the north-west part of the Oasis of Kharga, at Ain Yesin on the Corporation of Western Egypt lands; while considerable interest was aroused by a similar discovery at Dongola in the North Sudan, also in association with the Nubian sandstone.

Very interesting occurrences have also been reported from both West and East Sinai, the most notable being seams of bituminous shale with seams of coal up to two inches in thickness recorded by Mr. Linton Simmons of the Cairo Syndicate.

All these deposits have, without exception, been found in the Nubian sandstone, and wherever fossil evidence is available, appear to be of Upper Cretaceous age.