

We subjoin the following detailed account of mining operations here, abridged from a paper by Col. Grant, read before the Geographical Society of London, in 1857.

"The coal at Naniamo was first discovered by Mr. Joseph McKay, in 1850, who was directed to it by the Indians of the neighborhood. The same seam was discovered on Newcastle Island, and several other small islands in the channel, and the Indians soon got out two hundred tons. A pit was commenced by ten regular miners, on the 17th of September, and a shaft sunk to a depth of fifty feet, being through twelve feet of alluvium, eight feet of sandstone, and thirty feet of shale; the situation of the pit is at the north-west extremity of Naniamo harbor. Here they struck another seam of from six to seven feet in thickness, lying on conglomerate; they are now regularly working this seam in several parallel galleries, extending to a considerable distance already underground. The seam here runs nearly level, although with sufficient dip to insure good drainage. The greatest quantity of coal that has been raised from it was at the rate of 120 tons per week, with eight regular miners. The other seam has been discovered outcropping at another place, at a considerable distance from the working already described, and an adit level is being driven upon it. Work has been done at four different places, three on the upper seam, which is of an average thickness of six feet, and one as above described, on the lower seam, about the same thickness and of precisely similar quality, situated fifty feet lower than the first. The pit is situated within a few yards of the water side, and vessels drawing sixteen feet can anchor close to it; notwithstanding its proximity to the water, very little pumping is required. It is the opinion of the head miner that coal may be found anywhere within a circumference of two miles from Naniamo, at a depth of fifty or sixty feet below the surface. Altogether, there are few places where coal can be worked so easily, and exported so conveniently as from Naniamo."