

ferous region in the west is not coal-bearing, for, while in the eastern half of the continent conditions in Carboniferous times favored coal formation, in the western half of the continent the Carboniferous was a period of deep marine or volcanic conditions, and the favorable shallow-water conditions do not begin until the Cretaceous period.

Coals of Tertiary age, some of excellent quality, though most of them are lignites, occur at a number of points, as in the Nicola Valley, Princeton and in the Yukon.

While coal is known at many points, and no doubt occurs in the North in numerous basins in the great central region between the Coast Range and the Rockies, the main production is from the coal measures of Vancouver Island, and the Rockies and foot hills in the south-eastern portion of the Cordilleran belt. On Vancouver Island the productive measures occur in the upper part of the Cretaceous, and are worked near Nanaimo and Comox. In the Rockies and foothills there are three coal horizons. The lowest and most important is the Kootenay formation of the Lower Cretaceous, in which are the Crow's Nest, Blairmore-Frank and Cascade basins. A second group of the productive measures is the Belly River, situated towards the top of the Upper Cretaceous column; while the third is the Edmonton of Laramie age. The two latter, as was noted above, are also coal-producing on the plains. The basins within the mountains are usually Kootenay formation while those of the foothills are generally Belly River or Edmonton. The amount of coal in some of the basins is enormous. The southern Elk River basin, for example, has twenty-two workable seams aggregating 216 feet in thickness. The basins have been traced as far as the Athabasca River, but are known to continue northward.

While the coals are mostly bituminous, at a few points they become anthracitic. On the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Bankhead, the only mine at present producing anthracite in Canada, and at Anthracite, in the Cascade basin, the coal is of this quality. Anthracite also occurs locally in Queen Charlotte Island. At the head-waters of the Skeena River, the Ground Hog district, at present being prospected, contains anthracitic coal.

Excellent stones for building purposes are found throughout the region. Marble of high quality is produced near Lardeau and on the coast. Cement materials occur at various points and support industries at the eastern edge of the Rockies and on Vancouver Island.

Clays suitable for brick-making occur in many of the valleys, and at Clayburn, near Mission, a good fire-clay is being utilized.

CLIMATE

The climate* of the Pacific coast is mild and equable. Situated at the base of the Coast Range, where the moisture-laden winds from the Pacific must rise to cross the mountains and thus become mechanically chilled and unable to retain their load of water vapour, it naturally has a very heavy precipitation, generally exceeding a hundred inches, but varying greatly from point to point, according to distance from the mountains. From May to

* See page 68, "Canada and its Provinces," Vol. IX.