

be overcome by regulating fire-box and smoke-stack of engine. As a house coal it is first-class. The cost of production at present would be \$2.30 per ton at the pit's mouth, but this can be reduced materially by bringing in miners. The crossing of the river with the coal, hoisting to the bank, and laying of track to the Woodworth track, would be much more costly than the construction of a line from the pit by the N. E. side of the river to a point on the C. P. R. a short distance east of Medicine Hat. The mine could be worked quite as cheaply by the sinking of shafts and bringing coal to the surface. The distance from the mine to railway would be about six and one-half miles, and would cost from \$9,000 to \$10,000 per mile.

I estimate necessary and suitable machinery as follows :—

1 Double Engine, 40 horse-power each	\$
Sinking of shaft, 208 feet, about	750 00
40 Drills, at \$5.00 laid down	200 00
40 Coal Sledges, \$3.00 laid down	120 00
200 Picks, \$2.00 laid down	400 00
Pit Rails (8 lbs to the yard) 20 to 25 tons required, cost \$75 per ton laid down	1,875 00
Mine timbers for supporting, procurable west of Calgary, estimated	1,000 00

N.B.—No pumps required.

The consumption of coal in Manitoba and the North-West Territories will not at present exceed 250,000 tons per year. It is now worth \$6.00 to \$7.00 per ton at Medicine Hat and an average of \$10 per ton at points of importance east and west. I would recommend the employment of experienced miners, and contract (which they prefer) to dig by the running yard which in headings consists of 8 feet wide and 1 yard in; their rate is \$7.00 a yard here, and find everything, powder and grub, oil, &c. The running yard will give an average of four and one-half tons. In this manner of conducting the mine the cost of production is much reduced.

ROBERT WARD,

Contractor Saskatchewan Coal Mines.

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