

Wood Mountain-Willowbunch Coal Area, Saskatchewan.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Recent development in southern Saskatchewan caused by the building of railways and the consequent influx of settlers, has made necessary an investigation of the coal measures and associated formations of that region. The investigation was carried out by the writer over an area about Willowbunch and Wood mountain (Figure 1) and shows that the area is abundantly supplied with lignite coal of good quality, and with clays suitable for the manufacture of a wide range of ceramic products, including common building brick, sewer-pipe, pottery, and fire-brick. The results of the investigation are set forth in this report.

FIELD WORK AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Two seasons of three months each during the summers of 1913 and 1914, were spent in the field. In 1913, the Willowbunch area east of the 3rd meridian was examined; and in 1914, the examination was extended to the Wood Mountain area west of the 3rd meridian.

On account of the large extent of territory covered, the work was necessarily of the reconnaissance type, and consisted largely of the measurement and sampling of coal and clay outcrops, the location of these on township plans, and the correlation of strata. The sectional maps of the Topographical Surveys Branch, Department of the Interior—No. 19, Willowbunch sheet, and No. 18, Wood Mountain sheet—on a scale of 3 miles to 1 inch, were used as base maps.