

the district are at present in course of preparation. From the preliminary report above referred to the following particulars for this region are extracted:—

#### NOTES ON THE MORE IMPORTANT COAL SEAMS OF THE BOW AND BELLY RIVER DISTRICT.

The fuels embraced in this district vary from lignites, but slightly superior in quality to those of the Souris region, to coals containing a very small percentage of water, forming a strong coke on heating, yielding abundance of highly luminous hydrocarbons, and precisely resembling ordinary bituminous coals, though of Cretaceous or Laramie age. In describing them the general term *coal* will be used, as it is impossible to draw a definite line between the two classes among the numerous intermediate varieties.

A coal seam, which occurs on the lower Bow and Belly Rivers, is seen in the banks for many miles at a varying height above the water, due to the light undulating dips by which it is affected. It is generally not more than a foot or eighteen inches in thickness though persistent in extent, but at one point on the Belly River it thickens to three feet, forming a workable seam, which appears to be of good quality throughout. This locality is thirty-two miles in a direct line from "Coal Banks." (Range XVI, Township 10.) No analysis has yet been made of this fuel.

The locality just referred to as "Coal Banks" is at the crossing of the Belly River by the trail to Benton. The coal occurring at this place is in shale of the Cretaceous formation at the base of the Pierre. It is one of the best in the district, and has been worked to a small extent for some years at this point by Mr. N. Sheran. A second mine has lately been opened on the opposite side of the river, and a considerable quantity of coal is being extracted. The outcrop of this seam is now known to extend, in workable thickness, from a point about six miles up the St. Mary River to that part of the Belly near and below Coal Banks, and thence northward to the Bow River, a distance of seventy miles.