

HALIFAX, N. S., July 25th, 1868.

Sir,—The following report is the result of my examination of the Coal areas, known as the East River and Geo. McKay properties, in the County of Pictou. They are situated on the east side of East River, the town of New Glasgow and the Nova Scotia Railway being on the western extremity of the first named area. The McKay area adjoins the East River area at the eastern end, and running in the same course, the two together have a continuous range upwards of three miles in length, and half a mile in breadth.

The eastern portion of the Pictou coal field has only of late years received such attention as has tended to develop its configuration, for although the existence of some of the seams was known several years ago, they were only partially worked for the use of the neighbourhood.

The discovery, however, by Mr. Haliburton and others of a northern crop of a seam on both the west and east sides of the East River, agreeing in so many respects with the main seam of the Albion Mines, as to leave little doubt of its identity, and of other seams at the eastern extremity of the McKay area, has thrown considerable light upon this district, and much enhanced its value; inasmuch as both the northern and the southern crop of that seam, having now been opened on the east side of the river, the usual basin shape of carboniferous deposits is evident, and the position of the over and underlying seams may be assigned with less hazard of error.

Guided in my opinion of the value of these properties by such information as I have been able to obtain, and by the observations which I have personally made, I will briefly state the result of my examination of the different openings on and near the areas in question.

On the East River property three seams have been opened—the Stewart, the Richardson, and the Foster seams. The former was worked several years ago by the predecessors of the General Mining Association, and is reputed to be of excellent quality, and 3 feet 9 inches thick. A crop of this seam is in Potter's brook, a short distance south of the southern boundary of the area, where it has a dip to the east; this crop runs into the western end of the area and then trends eastward, embracing a considerable tract of coal, probably not less than 150 acres, between the crop and the south boundary.

The Richardson seam lies conformably with the Stewart, and has been opened by a shaft near the crop. Its thickness is 2 feet 9 inches, and as it is therefore not likely to be mined for some time for the general trade, it has been leased to a Pottery Company, whose works are on the property.

The Foster seam has also been sunk to by a shaft situated about 1110 yards to the east of the Richardson shaft, and near the northern boundary of the area. The seam has at this point a dip to the west, and is evidently on an eastern crop, the course of the strata having been traced to the south-west of the shaft, with a trending in that direction. The direction of this dip of the seam, considered in connection with the Stewart and Richardson seams at the west end of the area, conclusively, shows that