

The seams we found were similar in appearance and thickness to those on Ellenborough Peninsula, which confirms me in an opinion I had formed, that they were connected.

On trial, we found the coal of good quality; they flare much in the furnaces, and do not appear to have any of the injurious effects on either the fire-bars or furnaces that Welsh coal has. The proportionate expense for four hours, as compared with Scotch and Welsh, is as follows; viz.—

								<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Welsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18
Scotch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	14
Ellenborough and Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18

This difference may appear considerable in proportion, but the coal, having been procured from the surface, where it has been exposed to the action of the atmosphere, and much of it to the injurious effects of salt water, will weigh considerably in favour of the Ellenborough and Hamilton coal; had it been procured at several feet from the surface, I have no hesitation in saying that the result would be at least equal to the best Scotch coal. We have also tried it at the forge, and welded several bars of $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and the heats were as clean as if taken with the best English coal.

It is my belief that the field does not extend further to the westward than the eastern shore of Beaver Harbour, and to the eastward than the Minkish River, marked in the accompanying plan by a dotted line; indeed the feature of the country from Beaver Harbour to Shucharte is quite different, being covered with hard blue whin rock, without any appearance of freestone whatever.

It is impossible to form any opinion of the extent of the field in an inland direction; but, from the appearance of the country, I am of opinion that it is very considerable.

On first going on shore, the natives appeared tenacious of our examining the coals, and accused us of coming to steal them; but, having made a few presents to some of the chiefs, they entered into our views and became very active, and I am only surprised that, with the rude implements they have for digging, viz., hatchets and wooden wedges, they were able to procure so large a quantity in so short a time; and I am persuaded that, with the means we have, assisted by the natives, we could fill our coal bunkers in from 10 to 14 days.

The natives are a fine race of men, and appear industrious and friendly, but much addicted to thieving.

In conclusion, I beg leave to remark that the coal district is, in my opinion, admirably situated, possessing, as it does, excellent anchorage in its neighbourhood, and being so far north that vessels of almost any burthen can approach it by way of Cape Scott, thus avoiding the difficult and dangerous navigation of Sir George Seymour's Narrows and Johnston's Straits.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. T. Gordon,*

Commander.

John A. Duntze, Esq.,
Captain of Her Majesty's Ship "Fisgard,"
and Senior Officer.

— No. 4. —

EXTRACT of a LETTER to *J. A. Duntze, Esq.,* Captain of Her Majesty's Ship "Fisgard."

Fort Vancouver, 7 September 1846.

In your communication to the officer in charge of Fort Victoria, you request all the information in our power as to the coals on Vancouver's Island, and we will now do ourselves the pleasure of detailing all that is known to us on the subject.

From the indications of the strata, which have been carefully examined, it appears very probable that this mineral abounds over all the north-eastern part of Vancouver's Island; that is to say, from Choslakers, latitude $50^{\circ} 36'$, to Cape Scott, at its northern extremity, as traced by a dotted line in the accompanying sketch.