

These areas are delineated on the map, and may be referred to as the Edmonton coals. They extend north from near the international boundary to near the Peace river, covering an area of at least 10,000 square miles.

Another coal formation occupies the southeastern border of the province, with an area of 5,000 square miles; the seams in this are of more value in the southern portion than farther north or east. The principal mines of this area are to be found near Lethbridge.

EARLIER MINING.

Previous to the advent of the railway there seems to have been very little attempt at mining, although it is believed that about the year 1880 some coal was shipped by barge from Roche Percee down the Souris, but the venture was probably not very successful.

Subsequent development in coal mining followed railway extension very closely. In 1888 coal was discovered near Banff, on the Cascade river, opposite the present Bankhead mines. Mining here was, however, discontinued as soon as the seams were discovered near the railway at what was afterwards called Anthracite. This mine was leased in 1891 to H. W. McNeil & Co., who continued mining until 1904.

The coal mines at Lethbridge were preceded by primitive attempts at mining from the banks of the river. After a company was formed and plant erected the industry began to assume importance, and shipment may be considered to have commenced about the year 1886.

The well established mining industry at Canmore commenced about 1888, at what is known as the Cochrane mine, a mile up the river from the present slope. In 1891 the Canadian Pacific railway built a spur down the river to the mouth of the gully opposite White Man pass, where the present mining plant is installed. An extension south to the Sedlock prospect was finished in 1907, thus opening another new mine.

A mine near Cochrane was opened in 1885, known as the Bow River mine. This was closed in 1888, and another opening made nearby for a new company; but for many years this has been closed.

Near Medicine Hat, the coal seams on the Saskatchewan have been mined since 1883. The most prominent are in the neighbourhood of Stair.

The Crowfoot seams were worked in a desultory manner by the Blackfoot Indians, and for a time the Canadian Pacific railway made attempts at mining on Crowfoot creek, north of the railway, commencing operations in 1888.

The progressive development of the Edmonton mines closely followed the growth of the settlement. With the advent of the railway they rapidly increased in importance, and by consolidation and increase of capital their operations were placed on a more permanent basis.

Kneehills mines were opened in 1893, but as they are far from a railway they have—by the primitive means used—taken out only enough coal to supply the immediate settlers.

The greatest amount of mining has been along the line of the Crowsnest branch of the Canadian Pacific railway, in the mountains. This followed immediately on the completion of the railway, and practically within recent years.

In Manitoba there was promise at one time of a mine at the west end of Turtle mountain, south of Goodlands. About 1890, several holes were bored, and a shaft put down; but for some reason the industry was discouraged. South of Deloraine coal has been taken from a couple of thin seams for several years, but there has been no continuous mining.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

The geological structure of the area was roughly outlined by Sir James Hector, but to Dr. G. M. Dawson, R. G. McConnell and J. B. Tyrrell fell the lot of making the detailed examinations which gave us a true insight into the structure and a real distribution of the measures. The coal is found in three distinct horizons in the