

The following section taken in the centre of the district will show the relative positions of the seams, and the thickness of the intervening strata :—

Seams.	Strata and Coal.	
	Ft.	Ins.
Seam A	3	0
Strata	806	0
Carr seam	6	5
Strata	190	0
Barasois seam	12	1
Strata	379	0
Victoria seam	8	0
Strata	235	0
Seam D	3	0
Strata	78	0
North head seam	4	0
Strata	75	0
Lingan main seam	8	0
Strata	95	0
Seam G	4	6
Strata	340	0
Seam H	4	9

These seams, except at two limited points, lie at low angles from 5 to 8 degs., and are almost entirely free from faults.

These seams are those included by the Geological Survey as in the productive measures ; there are, however, numerous workable seams lying below them. The lowest near the town of Sydney has nearly 4 feet of coal, and is distant about 8 miles from the outcrop of the lowest seam given in the above section. The fact that the fossils of the horizon yielding the seam near Sydney are referred by Sir William Dawson to the productive group, and not to the Millstone Grit, affords reasonable grounds for belief that future explorations will give the Sydney coal-field an area several times larger than that now assigned to it.

The coals of this district are bituminous and coking. They yield from 9,000 to 11,000 cubic feet of from 14·75 to 16 candle-power gas. Tests made of them in beehive ovens show that they make in their crude state a good coke, and that with preparation they would give a coke at least equal to any made on this side of the Atlantic. They are extensively used for domestic purposes, and for locomotive and marine steam-raising. The following average of analyses will serve to show their character :—

Moisture	0·75
Volatile combustible matter	37·26
Fixed carbon	58·74
Ash	3·25
100·00	

There are at present two companies operating in this field—the General Mining Association of London and the Dominion Coal Co. of Boston, the former owning 23 square miles, and the latter 76. There