

THE COAL BEDS

—OF THE—

WESTMINSTER DISTRICT:

The Report of the Department of the Interior, just recently issued, among other exploratory surveys discovered, has the following :

On the seaboard of British Columbia Mr. Amos Bowman commenced field work in New Westminster district on the 1st of April, continuing to the end of August. The area delineated comprises a rectangle of a degree of latitude lying north of the 49th parallel, and three degrees of longitude lying eastward from the Gulf of Georgia to the canon of the Fraser. In this region are situated the cities of Westminster and Vancouver. It includes the delta of the Fraser, and also the much larger pleistocene delta of the stream. A considerable expanse of lignite-bearing tertiary, and also of bituminous coal bearing rocks of Cretaceous age, occur in this region, the two series presenting a system of outliers and ranges flanking the higher coast mountains of granite.

In May and June the limits of the Tertiary were traced, first south of the Fraser, commencing at Mud Bay (Semihamoo) and thence eastward to the Chilliwack River Mountains. The same rocks were then delineated (and incidentally others) on the north side of the Fraser, especially in the vicinity of Westminster and Vancouver:

Workable beds of lignite and coal, in the older as well as the newer series of rocks, are believed to exist, and will be developed when prospecting for them by boring, or drifting to the depths beyond atmospheric influence, is undertaken. In the adjacent United States territory the same rocks have been more extensively prospected, and in several places where exploited, show every indication of prevalence and continuance of favorable coal making conditions along the whole eastern or mainland side of the Puget Sound and Fuca Straits from the southern extremity of the former as far northward as the valley of the Fraser—in other words, on the Westminster side of the trough as well as on the opposing Vancouver Island side. The older or Cretaceous series of rocks are extensively developed in Canadian territory in the Harrison Lake District, and in the southern portions of the field described.

The quantity of Territory coal or lignite which may be developed by means