

posal of the government are not complete. The lower division of the seam was not worked at all in the Store, Bye, and Foord pits, and only partly worked in the Dalhousie pit. It would probably be found to be an over estimate, assuming that the upper portion of the seam was only worked in the Dalhousie pit, to say that one-half of the upper portion of the seam was worked.

Assuming the acreage of the pits at 450 acres, and the two divisions of the seams to be each twelve feet thick, on the figures given in *Acadian Geology*, there would be in the seam within their limits 16,200,000 tons of coal, or allowing for barriers and unworked blocks of coal in all 18,000,000 tons.

Taking one-half for the lower division of the seam, and adding one-half of the upper or worked portion there would be still in these workings 13,500,000 tons of coal. In any estimate of the future of this seam of coal account would have to be taken of the enormous but as yet undeveloped field lying to the north of the Foord pit workings.

In this brief review of the history of coal mining in the Pictou main seam we have noticed successive fires, explosions, crushes, inundations, and all the woes of the coal miner until it has become abandoned. The successful recovery of this vast body of coal and its application to the industrial pursuits of the country is a legacy left by the accumulating disasters of half a century for the ingenuity of mining engineers. Abandoned pits, lurking fires, crushed pillars, impounded bodies of water, imperfect plans, and outbreaks of spontaneous combustion, all unite to appall the miner, and invite condemnation of man's waste of the gifts of nature.