

## APPENDIX No. 1

Q. Does that coal area run up to Prince Albert?—A. At Prince Albert there is a chance that there is some coal beneath the surface, but we have no positive evidence. The white surface there (pointing to map) does not necessarily mean no coal. It is possible that by boring at Prince Albert you might strike some seams. Unfortunately the underlying formation is not carrying very much coal west of Prince Albert. In the south it is carrying some very nice seams, as at Lethbridge, but it does not contain so many seams of workable thickness northward.

Q. There is a quantity of lignite around the district of Edmonton?—A. Yes, a great number of seams are known.

Q. West of that in the Rocky mountains where the Grand Trunk Pacific is going they find coal?—A. Yes. In the foothills there are large areas of lignite and bituminous coals and in the mountains on either side of the line higher grade coals occur.

Mr. DOWLING.—If the committee wish to publish more detailed information on the area of the coal lands of the west and also some notes as to the character of the coal I would beg to submit the following summary statements:—

## THE COAL FIELDS OF MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA.

BY

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## INTRODUCTION.

This evidence is intended as a concise statement of the area and probable contents of the various coal fields of the middle portion of Canada. No attempt is here made to treat the subject in detail, except as regards the character of the coal.

The analyses already published are scattered throughout many reports, and an effort has been made here at a compilation of this material, in the form of tables of analyses.

*Location and Area.*

In Manitoba the coal-bearing rocks occupy a small area in the southern part, underlying an elevated portion called Turtle mountain. Thin seams outcrop around the base of this hill, and it is probable that others may be found higher up its slopes. With our present knowledge we can define an area of about forty-eight square miles near the western end of this hill as being available for mining.

The Saskatchewan areas lie principally in the southern part, and are being mined on the Souris river. The elevation known as the Coteau is also composed of coal-bearing rocks, which continue westward in the Wood mountains and Cypress hills. This area, although not well prospected, contains possibly 4,000 square miles within which coal may be found. Between the two branches of the Saskatchewan river there is an area of possible coal-bearing rocks; but the horizons having good workable seams farther west, appear in this area to be rather poorly supplied, so that the value of this part as a coal field is problematical.

The province of Alberta, as will be seen from the accompanying map, is liberally supplied with coal areas. The western border of the southern part of the province consists of several ranges of mountains, formed generally of rocks which were originally the floor on which the coal formations were laid down. The elevation of the coal formations subjected them to greater denudation than the harder rocks beneath, consequently little of this material is left; but in the wider valleys remnants are still found. These, from the superior quality and amount of coal, form very valuable coal fields. The foothill belt, although not well prospected, will be found to contain many valuable areas in which a softer grade of coal may be found.

East of the foothill area lies a great extent of coal-bearing rocks which are comparatively undisturbed. The coal in this region is well suited for domestic use; and as it is within the settlement belt, where wood is scarce, a demand for it is assured.