

to large seams of coal having been discovered on Grand Lake other than those already uncovered by our explorations of previous seasons, and to test the same Mr. Reid had obtained the use of the diamond drill from the Government. Having entertained a doubt, amounting almost to a certainty, that the alleged find was a false rumour, the doubt was confirmed upon meeting Mr. Reid, from whom I learned they had been boring on the north side of the lake near the outlet of Junction Brook, and had not succeeded in striking any coal. To any person having the least knowledge of the geological structure, or at all conversant with the character of the different members of the carboniferous series, this would not be a matter of surprise. The north side of the lake is occupied by the lower carboniferous formations only, at a horizon many thousand feet below the productive coal measures. Upon learning these facts, I recommended Mr. Reid to try at several points on the south side of the lake, where the prospects of finding coal were at least probable.

On arriving at Grand Lake we found the boring party camped near the mouth of Coal Brook, one of the points recommended. They had sunk a pit through the gravel and sand some eighteen feet till they struck the bed rock preparatory to commencing boring here. The rock was a fine-grained, finely-micaceous, greenish-gray sandstone, apparently belonging to the true coal measures. It would have been interesting had they succeeded in boring in this locality, as there was certainly a prospect of striking coal. It was lower down in the section than the position of any of the seams previously uncovered, and were it proved that it existed in this lower horizon, the increased value and importance of the coal measures here would thereby have been greatly enhanced. We were afterwards informed that they abandoned the attempt without any effort at boring at all. Where they had bored on the north side of the lake a depth of 105 feet had been attained, chiefly through coarse, red sandstone and grit, either belonging to the carboniferous limestone or base of the millstone grit formation. What could have induced Mr. Reid to expend time and money upon such a useless undertaking I fail to comprehend, when the least enquiry as to the prospects of finding coal in this particular part of the series would have at once convinced him of its futility.