

PREFACE.

The coal resources of British Columbia form a subject of great interest, but although many of the coal fields have been studied and reported upon, yet much of this information is out of print or otherwise inaccessible. In the case of the areas in the Skeena River country in the vicinity of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, studied by Mr. Leach, the early demise of this earnest worker prevented a contemplated correlation of his observations and, therefore, an attempt has been made in this volume to bring together his published writings relative to the coal fields of the Skeena valley. The volume also contains, as far as possible, extracts from all reports, except those superseded by later information, that deal with the coal areas or possible coal areas in British Columbia.

The introduction and general discussion has been made brief as the book is intended not as a report but as a collection of reports by various authors, giving their several points of view. The arrangement of the discussion is under two heads: (1) the Cretaceous coal-measures; and (2) the Tertiary. This method introduces first the deposits more important both as to relative value of the coal and extent of the mining industry. Among the fields included in the second part, are many problematical areas not thoroughly explored, but which may yet become important.