

not seen any gas in the mine during the past year, having a safety lamp with me sometimes, but not always, when making these inspections.

There are six different ways out from this mine. Most of them are in order for use if required. I have always found a good stock of timber on hand and every other thing which would appear to be necessary for the safety of the workmen and the working of the mines.

#### NO. 2 SHAFT (OR SOUTH WELLINGTON).

I have examined this pit frequently during the year, but at the end of the month of October work was stopped in it, and there is not likely to be any coal taken out before spring. The works are in good order, standing ready to take out coal which will be principally from the pillars. Up to the time of stopping, the works were kept in good order; and I may here state that there has not been any accident of any kind in the pit, with the exception of a miner getting slightly burnt by injudiciously returning to a shot. This place is well ventilated, which is caused by the same fan mentioned as partly ventilating the Wellington mine. I have frequently found 300 cubic feet of air per minute for each man, and it has been almost entirely free from fire-damp.

#### NO 3 PIT, WELLINGTON COLLIERY.

The works are in good order and they are getting out about 1500 tons per day, but at present they cannot employ more than twenty men in it at any one time, as there is no connection or outlet, and the law restricts them to the above number. This will be got over, however, in a few days, as they are about to connect with the place known as the fan shaft, which will also be the means of ventilation. As they are limited to the above number of men, they are utilizing them to the best advantage by extensive opening out and proving their coal.

There is a slope down about 500 yards, with good hard coal all the way varying in thickness from eight to eleven feet, which is being continued and proving to be a good and extensive mine. There is a double engine placed at the top of this slope made by Mr. Joseph Spratt of Victoria, which any engineer might be proud of. Ventilation here at present is obtained by a steam jet, which makes good air for the number of men employed.

To all appearance there is every probability of there being a large output from this pit this year.

#### ADIT LEVEL.

This level was run in about 300 yards, where it connected with the Wellington mine, which is now all as one mine. At present there is quite a large output of coal per day from this place. The workings here are, as in the other mines, on the pillar and stall system, the coal being six feet thick and very hard. This level is of great value to the company, as all the water from the mine above this level will run out here.

Ventilation is caused by a large furnace built at the bottom of the upcast shaft. Air is good, although sometimes the brattice here, as in all the other mines, is generally further back than the Mining Law allows. The blasting is done with heavy charges of gunpowder, sometimes as much as two pounds in one charge, so that brattice nine feet off would be almost sure to be broken down, which would be labour lost as well as timber destroyed; but considering that

there is little or no gas seen here it is not necessary to keep it so close.

#### NO. 4 SHAFT, WELLINGTON COLLIERY

This shaft which was recently put down, is on the bluff overlooking the valley. It is 633 feet deep, with a bore-hole in the bottom 63 feet further, so that this is the deepest shaft about here, being about 700 yards east of No. 3 shaft, and about 250 yards in a north-easterly direction from the bottom of the slope in No. 3. In going down this shaft, they went through several thin veins of coal, but, at the depth of 350 feet from the surface, they struck what is known as the Wellington seam of coal, which proves to be ten feet thick, hard, and of its usual good quality. Though the drive is only in about thirty yards, yet it gives off a considerable amount of gas, the miners only working by the light of a safety lamp. But it is most likely that, like all the rest of the mines about here, as it gets opened out, the fire-damp will decrease. At present, they are working about the shaft; and on the top, getting everything in good working order, so that everything may be safe, as far as can be seen.

A contract has been let for building a railway to this pit, being over a mile in length, to connect with what is known as the North Wellington railway. This company may be congratulated on their success in finding this coal, as well as the prospect of having a large output of coal during this year (1883).

#### EAST WELLINGTON COAL Co.

This is a new work, with Gabriel Wingate, mining engineer, superintendent. This company having purchased what was known as the Westwood estate, in Mountain district, situated in the valley of the Millstone river, and about half-way between Nanaimo and Wellington; and having obtained possession of this property in August last, immediately commenced operations by starting to sink a shaft 18 feet by 8, throwing out the gravel and rock to a depth of 30 feet, where they found the rock solid, and commenced to build up with timber, filling up the space between the timber and the wall with clay, and continued this to the surface, so that they have the satisfaction of knowing that the surface-water is shut out from the shaft. A steam-engine has been put up as a temporary one, to hoist the rock out, and what water may be met with, which, so far, is very little. They have gone through three thin seams of hard coal, one of them 2 feet thick. Now the shaft is down about 200 feet, and they have the prospect of getting very soon, what is known as the Wellington coal. The line of railway is also located and surveyed to Departure Bay a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is of easy grade, and will not be difficult to get ready for the rails, a good part of which is already on the ground. There is also another large hoisting engine ready to start, in addition to that mentioned above. This is a double engine, having 14-inch cylinders with three feet stroke, and two large tubular boilers generate steam. This machinery will be able to hoist a large quantity of coal per day, at the depth this shaft will be.

There has been some prospecting done at Comox, by Mr. T. D. Jones, of Nanaimo, during the past year. He has put down a bore-hole in the