

ted, have had a gang of about thirty men prospecting the coal seams on their property during the last few months, and are now opening permanent tunnels.

'West of Edmonton, along the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, a number of companies which have recently been organized, have secured extensive properties, and have done considerable work in proving the coal seams. At least two of these companies have ordered machinery and are making preparations to develop their mines, and I understand will have railway connexions during 1910, which will place them in a position to produce a fair amount of coal by the end of the year.'

More complete details may be obtained from the report of the Provincial Inspector of Mines¹.

Amongst the developments of particular interest are those that have taken place on the new coal finds in the foothills of the Rocky mountains, on the Bighorn basin, Brazeau river, Pembina river, etc., to the south of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. These fields have been under investigation by Mr. D. B. Dowling, of the Geological Survey, a preliminary report on which will be found in the Summary Report of the Geological Survey for 1909. Mr. Dowling summarized his conclusions as follows:—

'South of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway line, in the foothills, there are coal fields of large extent. Of these, the nearest to the railway is situated in the outer portion of the disturbed foothills area. From it domestic, and a fair grade of steam coal may be obtained. The area is situated on the headwaters of Embarras and Pembina rivers, and may be of larger extent than outlined on the accompanying sketch map. Over a portion of this area a seam of from 12 to 17 feet can be mined.

'Higher grade steam and coking coals may be obtained from more distant fields, to which approach is more difficult, since they are situated behind high, rocky ridges. The areas containing the best grade of coal extend in narrow strips from the Saskatchewan river to near the Athabaska, behind the Brazeau, Bighorn, and Nikanassin ranges, respectively. The parts which seem minable, and easy of approach through gaps in these ridges may be outlined as: the Brazeau Range area, on the Saskatchewan; the Bighorn basin, from the Saskatchewan to the Brazeau rivers; and the southern part of the Nikanassin basin, drained by the McLeod and North branch of the Brazeau rivers. These areas may not be minable outside a strip which is not much over a mile in width, but they have a total length of nearly eighty miles. A section of the measures near the Saskatchewan shows nearly 100 feet of workable coal, in about nine seams. Northward, the seams possibly decrease in thickness and number, but on the McLeod the upper part of the coal-bearing horizon was observed to have about 20 feet of coal seams. This may be added to by further prospecting.

'The character of the coal is remarkably uniform; and in almost all parts of the field, coking coals that yield 75 per cent of coke may be found. The Fiddle Creek portion, at the northern end of the Nikanassin basin, has not been examined, but it is reported that coal has been found at points within half a

¹ Annual Report of the Department of Public Works of the Province of Alberta, 1909.