

Explorations are now being made by Mr. Lawson, on the adjoining property of the Montreal and New Glasgow Company, which will probably more fully expose these beds.

On the north side of the area, the lower beds have not yet been removed, but the characteristic black shales which overlie them appear in several places, and they could, no doubt, be easily reached by a shaft sunk in the south-eastern part of the proper *γ*. From my knowledge of other parts of the Pictou Coal field, I have no hesitation in affirming that these lower beds underlie the greater part of the area, and though they have not been proved, yet their ascertained value both to the west and east of the area, renders it certain that their amount of coal must greatly exceed that of the upper series above mentioned.

III.—AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF COAL.

It is not at present determined how many workable beds occur in the upper series; but it is certain that there are at least two: (1) The Kirby or Lawson seam, worked on the slope of the Montreal and New Glasgow Company, and which may be identical with the Richardson seam and with one of the beds on the shaft of the German Company. (2) The Foster seam, which I regard as identical with the George McKay, and possibly with the "Stewart" seam.

Samples of these Coals gave on assay, the following results:

Name of Coal.	Volatile matter.	Coke.	Fixed carbon.	Ash.	Color of ash.
1. Kirby or Lawson, } coal... ..	25.4	74.6	50	24.6	whitish.
4 feet thick. } cannel... ..	34.8	65.2	47.6	17.6	reddish.
2. George McKay, } 1 sample	31.4	68.6	63.6	5	grey.
4 ft. 4 in. } 2 "	31.2	68.8	62.6	6.2	grey.
3. Foster Coal, }	29	71	53.4	17.6	reddish
4 ft. 4 in. }					grey.

Of the above coals, that of the George McKay seam is decidedly the most valuable, whether for gas or steam purposes. In the small amount of earthy matter contained in it, it compares favourably with any coal hitherto shipped from the Pictou mines.

The coal of the Foster mine, in general quality, resembles that of the George McKay, but contains much more earthy matter. If as above conjectured, these two exposures belong to one and the same bed, then the quality of the coal must improve in its extension eastward.

The Kirby or Lawson coal affords a large amount of ashes; but the layer of cannel at the top is very valuable as a gas coal, and affords a good coke.

I had no opportunity of obtaining samples of the lower coals on this property. The nearest exposure to the opening already referred to on the north side of the area, is that of the Montreal and Pictou Company on the west side of the river, where the beds are stated to contain 37 ft. 6 in. in thickness of good coal in four beds. The nearest exposure to the