

"your coal may be passed as a high grade bituminous  
"free from sulphur and iron with only a trace of silica  
"The waste is a clean ash and volatile matter. It is  
"an excellent steam coal and nothing better could be  
"found for domestic purposes. In my opinion you  
"have a body of coal of several millions tons proven  
"by the work already completed, and there is no ques-  
"tion but that the seam of coal now being developed  
"is one of the smallest of your coal fields."

Mr. Keith was succeeded by Mr. James Touhey, a mining man with first class certificate and highest testimonials. My instructions to him were "Go to Midway and thoroughly examine the mine and give me your candid opinion on the same in every respect." Extracts from his reports read as follows:—

"I have now thoroughly examined the mine and can  
"safely say that it is a great proposition from a  
"mining point of view."

"The seam at present being worked looks good taking  
"into consideration its depth from the surface and this  
"will turn out to be all clear coal when we get deeper.  
"Shipping coal could be taken out profitably but not  
"to any large extent."

"When the slope is down 100 feet I would start a level  
"to the left in the seam and go in 75 feet, at this  
"point I would start a cross measure drift and inter-  
"sect the whole of the 9 seams. The slope and level  
"could continue work as by that time it ought to be  
"all coal, miners could then be employed to mine the  
"coal at say 60 cents per ton."

"I estimate, in two months, if the seam continues to  
"improve in the same way as it has been doing we  
"could be selling coal at a big profit."

"There has been a lot of coal sent out with the dirt  
"and hurried but I am now having it put to one side  
"and we are getting quite a pile, this coal that we  
"are picking out could be sold locally at \$5.00 or  
"\$6.00 per ton at the mine. I would like to see you  
"as soon as possible as I can save you all kinds of  
"money on future work."

(Signed) JAMES TOUHEY