

INTRODUCTION

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ASIA

THE reserve of coal in Asia is probably underestimated as many of the Siberian and Chinese coal-fields have not been sufficiently explored to admit of an estimate of their reserves being made.

The coal-fields of importance in India and China are underlain by Permo-Carboniferous measures. In Japan the important coal-bearing deposits are of Miocene age and in Siberia coal is found in formations varying in age from Lower Carboniferous to recent.

PALEOZOIC COALS

Lower Carboniferous coals are found in the disturbed zone east of the Urals and also in Turkestan. Coal-bearing beds equivalent to the Coal-Measures of Europe occur above the marine beds of the Carboniferous, in the region south of the Black Sea; the beds found in the Kirghiz steppes and near Tomsk are of about the same age as the Permo-Carboniferous coal-bearing series of China, Manchuria and India. Small amounts of coal are found in the Permian rocks of Yenisei.

MESOZOIC COALS

Coal is found in small amounts in the Triassic rocks of Japan. Extensive coal deposits of Rhætic or Lower Jurassic age occur in Persia, Turkestan, Irkutsk, Trans-Baikal, southern China and Indo-China, minor occurrences being found in Japan and the east slope of the Urals.

Jurassic measures containing coal of economic importance are found in large areas in eastern Siberia and a few areas of smaller extent occur in Manchuria, Corea, Japan and northern India.

Coal is found in the Cretaceous deposits of south-western Japan and of Sakhalien island. The Lower Cretaceous measures of the northern Urals contain a few seams of coal.

TERTIARY COALS

Tertiary coals are widely distributed and although not of high grade, are of importance especially in Japan and north-eastern Siberia where Miocene beds contain a large reserve. Other localities where Tertiary coals are found include the Malay States, Burma, Kashmir, Jammu, Arabia and Turkey in Asia.

In China and Japan and possibly in northern Siberia, Pliocene lignites are found.

A noticeable feature of the reserve for Asia is the large amount of anthracite coal, most of which is found in China.