

## GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE COALS.

As is often found, the character of the coal varies with the age of the formation, and the amount of the covering beds. In this case the general laws holds, but a far more important element has also influenced the alteration. The lateral disturbance and pressure in the formation of the Rocky mountains has made a great change in the character of the coal.

*Edmonton-Laramie coals.*—In the undisturbed regions the coals are lignites, but grade from those bordering on true coals in the west to poor lignites, having twenty per cent of moisture. In the disturbed area this formation contains coals that grade up from good lignites to true coals.

*Belly River coals.*—In the undisturbed areas the coals grade from true coal to lignite, as in the series above, but are generally of better class. In the disturbed belt they border on coking coals.

*Kootanie coals.*—As these are in the lower measure, and have been subjected to greater load, they are, as would be expected, of higher grade, but as the exposures are all in the broken and faulted blocks of the mountain area, a much greater change has taken place than would be expected in undisturbed beds. The coals range from coking coals to anthracites. The anthracite area is that of the Cascade basin—the greatest alteration being found near Banff.