Chapter XIII

THE COAL-FIELDS OF RUSSIAN SAKHALIEN

BY

N. N. TIKHONOVICH

(*Extract*)

It is impossible to determine a definite coal-bearing series or horizon in Saghalien. Coal is found in strata of different ages from the Upper Cretaceous to the Post-Pliocene. The oldest coals, of Senonian age, are developed on the west coast near Korsakoff creek, in the vicinity of the mouth of the Pilevo river, on Nainai creek and near Cape Jonquière. Most of the coals are of Tertiary age while some of the lignites are post-Pliocene.

DESCRIPTION OF FIELDS

The following descriptions of the coal-fields are in geographical order, beginning with the farthest south on the west coast and passing round the north end of the island to the east coast.

Pilevo District

At the mouth of the Pilevo river, near the Japanese frontier, coal has been recently found. The Pilevo measures are considered to be of Upper Cretaceous age, the strata being folded and faulted and composed of sandstone, conglomerates and clay-slate with several seams of coal. The dip of the strata is variable and at places becomes almost vertical. Two groups of coal-seams have been discovered, the first, which outcrops near the mouth of the Pilevo is much broken up by small faults and shows a variable thickness: the second, which appears near the Japanese frontier, contains five seams with the following thicknesses: A, 4 feet 6 inches; B, 5 feet; C, 7 feet; D, 1 foot; E, 10 feet.

These seams were only partly explored and according to K. A. Tapson they contain more than one million tons of coal.

Other outcrops occur about two miles and a half to the east of the mouth of the Pilevo, where, in a very sharp anticline, several coal-seams are found, of which one attains a thickness of 3 feet 6 inches. This bed occupies a higher horizon than the beds previously referred to.

Region of Nainai

In the Cretaceous rocks of the south bank of Nainai creek, seams of fine, leafy coal of 6 inches to 1 foot 6 inches in thickness are found in tufaceous rocks and sandstone.