

falls into the category of "second-class" coal. The best seams are known as the Dishargarh, Sanctoria, and Silpur, and these probably contain about 518 million tons of first-class coal, corresponding in composition to class B<sub>3</sub>. Three other seams of not quite such good quality are estimated to contain 360 million tons, whilst, as pointed out above, the total supply of the field, including both first and second class, is over twenty thousand millions.

#### JHERRIA COAL-FIELD

The Jherria field is approximately a shallow elliptical basin, of which the lengths of the axes are 23 and 10 miles, respectively. The coal-bearing area covers about 150 square miles, and consists chiefly of beds belonging to the Barakar stage, in which there are 18 coal-seams. The seams of the Raniganj stage are, on the whole, thinner and poorer, although one seam is of value. Of the Barakar seams, the nine lowest are, as a rule, of poor quality, and work is confined chiefly to Nos. 10 to 18. It has been estimated that about 500 million tons of first-class coal are available, whilst the quantity of second-class coal is very large, being comparable to that available in the Raniganj field. The coal belongs to the classes B<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>3</sub>.

#### GIRIDIH COAL-FIELD

The Giridih field is a very small one, covering only 11 square miles, but much of the coal is of excellent quality. The seams fall into two groups, an upper group of inferior fuel known as the Hill seams and a lower seam known as the Karharbari. The annexed table\* shows the actual reserves of the Karharbari seam. In addition to this, the Hill seams are believed to contain about 8 million tons which will be worth extracting.

DISTRICT	COAL-SEAMS		ACTUAL RESERVE (Calculation based on actual thickness and extent)		
	No.	Thickness	Area	Class of Coal	Metric Tons
Giridih.....	1	9 ft. to 21 ft.	2,604 sq. m.	B <sub>2</sub>	39,000,000

The estimates of quantities available in these fields are, in each case, liable to error, since large quantities of coal have been completely destroyed by dykes and sills of igneous rock (basalt and mica-apatite-peridotite) which have been intruded into many of the seams.

A fourth field, that of Daltonganj, has recently been opened up, but development has not yet reached a stage comparable to that of either of the other three.

The subjoined list includes the chief prospective coal-fields of the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa:

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