

# OPEN FILE

REPORT OF  
PRESIDENT A. S. HALIDIE,  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE WEST  
VANCOUVER COMMERCIAL CO.

7th. November, 1899.

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TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST VANCOUVER COMMERCIAL  
COMPANY.

Gentlemen:-

At your request I beg to give a short review of the work done on your property at Coal Harbor and vicinity, West Arm of Quatsino Sound.

It is well known to the members of the Board of Directors that the entire property of the Company is covered with a dense growth of forest trees, consisting of Fir, Spruce, Hemlock, and Cedar, which renders the work of exploration slow and difficult.

Previous to the commencement of the work, July 1898, under Phillip Rowe, very little systematic work has been done on the property, although a great deal of money has been expended for work that had not been followed up, but seems to have been abandoned at the least set back.

The diamond drill employed produced a core only 5/8" diameter. The core was so badly mixed and ground up that examination was under the best conditions, very unsatisfactory.

Although as stated, the results were not by any means in proportion to the money expended, yet they have served as a guide for the work being done on the property. All the prospecting has been made on the property lying west of Katchinughtum Creek, and at a few scattered points, for example, in the vicinity of the camp at Coal Harbour including 2nd. and 3rd. Creeks, at Hockeemish Creek, about 1 1/8 miles west of camp, and at a point on the extreme westerly boundary of the property, known as the West Arm working, 4 1/2 miles west of Camp, where you are now working.

The Geological Report of John J. Landale, made in 1872, the Geological Report of Geo. M. Dawson, March 1st., 1887, and the Geological Report of Dr. Harold W. Fairbanks, October 1899, agree that the whole of Section 1, being 5580 acres, is underlain with coal, with the exception of a few acres on the extreme northwest corner.

This being well determined by the reports, it remains for the explorer to ascertain the thickness of the coal seams and the

and the value of the coal.

Preliminary examinations were made at four points: 1st. 3rd. Creek about 1 mile east of camp; 2nd. On Wogsta Creek, near Natchinughtum, one mile east of camp; 3rd. Nookeemish Creek, 1 3/4 miles W.N.W. of camp; and 4th. Adamson's Hut, 4 1/2 miles west of camp.

Some time was occupied in this work, and it was decided that the examination should for the first few months at least, not be pursued to any great depth, but it was thought best to send up a small hoisting plant before winter was too far advanced.

As no meteorological observations had been made, knowledge of the climate was quite limited, but it was stated to be severe in winter and great excess of rain and snow. The contrary has proved to be the case. The climate is mild, the rainfall not excessive and snow rarely exceeds a few inches in depth, remaining but a short time.

The first prospecting work was done on 3rd. Creek, but the location proving unsatisfactory, and the drill holes misloading, further work was discontinued. The quality of coal here was, however, excellent.

In October 1898, work was commenced on Wogsta creek and continued until June, 1899. A seam of coal was encountered in the shaft and exposed in the drift. The seam was here 5 ft. thick. About 50 tons of coal were removed, and put on the dump, and the steamer Queen, on one of her trips from Quatsino to Victoria used enough of this coal to make the run with satisfactory results.

The coal of this seam is a good coking quality, but for household or commercial purpose will have to be washed as it runs from 18 to 26% in ash.

The sample assayed by Mr. Abbot Hanks in San Francisco, taken from near the surface, gave the following results:-

Fixed carbon	49.18
Volatile combustible matter	23.55
Water	2.70
Ash	24.57
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Coke 73.75	100.00

The Superintendent estimated that this seam covers an area of from 15 to 20 acres. The shafts and drifts are well timbered and left in good condition. The air in south drift when the main body of coal was found was foul, and as sufficient work had been done to prove the seam, the work was stopped, and on July 1st. 1899, work was commenced at Adamson's Hut, 4 1/2 miles west of camp. A steam launch was purchased, as the cutting of a road through the timber and building up of a new camp would have been very expensive and too much time lost between the two camps. The steam launch has proved to be of very great value.

As it was very desirable to get the work well under way at this point, before the heavy rains of winter began, Mr. Rowe was instructed to commence operations at the earliest possible date.

A shaft was sunk 18 feet and slope started from the bottom. After driving 28 feet coal came in at the top of slope and developed into a seam of clean coal of excellent quality, 4' 11" thick, which was followed for 20 feet, driving in a southerly direction under the water towards the fault which crosses the face of the property. At 100 feet the coal became somewhat vitrified and reduced to a little over 3 feet. At this time Mr. Harold W. Fairbank, Ph. D., a Geologist of reputation, and well acquainted with the geology of the coast, and who had been sent up to make a geological examination of the property, was on the ground, and was consulted by the Superintendent, and a drift was started in an easterly direction, and driven about 18 feet when a downfall of rain continued for 9 days, 8.39 inches of rain falling in that time. The surface water got into the shaft and drowned the men out, at the end of which time the storm ceased, and after 7 days work with the appliances at hand, the water was pumped out, and the work resumed, and the drift is now being driven 2 1/2 feet per day. The last letter from the mine is dated 25th. October, 1899, when the Superintendent reports the coal seam thickening and improving. The purpose is to run easterly about 200 feet when all geological disturbance will be passed.

The work is well laid out for the winter and everything is in good condition both at the West Arm workings and in camp.

It is the present intention, after the character of the seam now being worked on is determined, to make explorations on Hookneemish Creek. So far we have every reason to be satisfied with the work done; everything has been carried on in an economical and quiet way.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF PHILIP ROWE.

April 18, 1899.

The Wogsta vein is 5' 6", shaft down 52 feet, and the coal opened out by two drifts running north and south respectively.

The south drift is in 30 feet and the coal is far superior to that we struck in the shaft which was in the slip and from which I sent you a sample.

There are 40 tons of picked coal on the dump and with the developing work already done we are able to pick 25 tons of coal per day.

Referring to the quantity, there is no doubt that the vein extends over the entire eastern portion of the property, and as to the thickness of the seam, we will probably find that it increases as we work towards the basin, but the croppings show it to be not less than 5 feet in three places where it appears on the surface. The part of your property entered by the south drift will give us from 15 to 20 acres without any fault or slip appearing in the surface.

JULY 22nd., 1899.

At depth of 28 feet I cut into roof and got 10" of the best coal we have yet seen, with hard shale and clay above me.

As it stands to-day, we have a seam of 4' 11" of good coal that does not need any washing.

We have 20 tons first-class coal in dump that needs neither washing or picking ( This refers to seam at Adamson's Hut ).

Some of the coal from above seam was sent to Mr. F.W. Vincent, Assistant Manager, Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, who, under date of Oct. 17, 1899, addressed to the Company says.

" I take pleasure in stating that we have made a careful test of the sample of coal furnished by the West Vancouver Commer-

cial Company, and find the quality satisfactory in every respect, giving good heat and making little ash.

Regarding the road between Coal Harbor on the west and Hardy Bay on the east side of the Island, both of which are land-locked harbors with deep water and good anchorage and only 9 miles apart, it is expected that the Government will resume work in the Spring with a wharf at Hardy Bay.

With a wharf at Hardy Bay the large number of steamers running to the gold fields of Alaska will have a very desirable stopping place and your property will have almost daily communication with the rest of the world, and while you can land coal almost directly from the mine into sea-going vessels at the West Arm of Quatsino Sound, and there is deep and safe water to the Pacific Ocean, a tram 9 miles long can carry the coal to the great fleet of steamers plying on the inland passage, and passing Hardy Bay, as soon as you have advanced your explorations far enough to justify the mining of the coal.

Respecting the Geological report of Dr. Fairbanks, which has been laid before you, in conversation had October 13, 1899, with Dr. Harold W. Fairbanks, in Mr. Forbes' office, Dr. Fairbanks, who has reported on the geology of your property, stated that the whole of lot No. 1, with the exception of a corner on the North West end, was covered with coal beds; that the thickness of the seams could only be determined by actually cutting through them, and that it appeared to him, as far as he could see from the workings already made, that there were none of a very great thickness, or say, exceeding from three to five and one half feet.

The present workings of the West end of the property he considered very encouraging, and the prosecution of the drift now being driven by Mr. Rowe, at the foot of the incline, in an easterly direction, would, within a short time, determine the value of the seam, and it appeared to him that the seam of coal already developed by Mr. Rowe would probably maintain its thickness for a long distance east.

He would advise that the work of this drift easterly be continued until the size of the vein is determined. If it should be found to decrease in thickness, it might be well to sink a drill hole at the point somewhat to the west of the drill hole No. 6 near 2nd. Creek, as you would probably intercept the various coal seams known as Hecate, 2nd. and 3rd. Creeks. He would suggest another point also, about midway between the above mentioned points and Nookneemish Creek.

The quality of the coal at West Arm is beyond question. The Wogsta workings are in a syncline, but in his judgment, the seam found there is the same as at Matchenughtum Creek and Hecate.

The field to the east of Coal Harbor further than the explorations taken on the Wogsta, seems to be unexplored, and as the surface is that principally of lowlands and swamps he has had no opportunity of seeing the rock and hence determining the probability as to the presence of coal further than the croppings on the beach.

Dr. Fairbanks, after making his examination of the West Vancouver Commercial Company's property, visited the south east arm and examined the copper mines there. He was very much struck with the appearance of the ore in sight, and which the owners told him yield a very good return by assay. He secured some of the ore from the mine, and shipped to San Francisco, care of the Company, and if the vein of copper could be developed at this point, the coal of the West Vancouver Commercial Company, even if the seams were thin, would be of considerable value to be used for smelting purposes.

Dr. Fairbanks stated that he would on receipt of further report from Mr. Rowe, be glad at any time to give what farther information he could in the matter.

Dr. Fairbanks had spent about six weeks on the property .