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REPORT OF THOMAS P. PEARSON, M. E.,
OF THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE WEST VANCOUVER COMMERCIAL
COMPANY,
DATED AT QUATSINO, VANCOUVER ISLAND, NOVEMBER 24, 1900.

00207

A. B. Forbes, Esq., President,
West Vancouver Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Having carefully examined the east and west ends of your Coal Lands, I am of the opinion that the coal seam in the Rowe slope at the Western end underlies the whole of your property in the Eastern portion, although it is the deepest of the seams yet discovered, the coal measures continue to an unknown depth below it.

The slope mentioned above is on the sea beach near a fault. At that point the coal is not workable to any practical extent, there not being enough rocks under the sea, but going Eastward it deepens and the croppings come nearer the surface further and further inland; it was important therefore to test this seam at some point East of the slope where there would be a sufficient area above sea level to sink a working shaft, if only the boring should prove the coal to be thick enough.

With this in view I selected a spot a little East of the Coal slope and about 600 yards West of Moore's bore hole. This position is in the bed of the creek, flowing south into Apples Bay, where the sandstone and other croppings are exposed in many places. Here I expected to strike Rowe's coal seam at a depth of 300 ft; we got the coal, unfortunately not quite thick enough, but was nearly approaching workable conditions, that we decided to try it once more in a shallower hole under other circumstances.

This might have been done at 50 or 60 feet, but in this case there was a strike fault across the bed of the creek, and there was some risk in taking too long a step, so I put the second bore hole 900 feet North of the first and got the same seam at a depth of 180 feet; the coal being a little thicker, but as in the first hole, too soft to take out the full core.

We then determined to locate the outcrop further up the hill and to sink a 4 by 6 shaft, 20 or 30 feet deep on it, so

that the coal seam might be examined by anyone examining the property. The 3rd. boring to locate this shaft exactly was made with a steel chopping drill and spring hole to save time in moving up the steam diamond drill, as we were anxious to have this work done while one of your directors was here. But the result was disappointing, the coal having thinned considerably, as it often does approaching on the surface under similar conditions. We accordingly stopped the sinking of the shaft, and whether Rowe's coal seam may be in the Eastern and far larger portion of your property remains to be proven some future time.

Nos. 1 and 2 bore holes were both stopped in the conglomerate which crops out about 300 ft. North of No. 3. Beyond that spot no bedded rock is visible, the creek being entirely filled with boulders and gravel. I was anxious to continue boring through this conglomerate or as much of it as possible and so selected a position 60 ft north of the cropping before mentioned.

I intended to bore in the new and hitherto unexplored ground below Rowe's seam until we should find another coal seam or strike several of the coal measures, however, in this spot, the gravel was thick and loose and not safe sinking for our unskilled men. After losing some time at it, we were reluctantly compelled to go back to No. 3 hole set up by our drill and commence boring other conglomerates however thick it might be in order to reach the measures below it. This was discontinued on the 22nd. of November, the frost being very severe and freezing our water pipes, and causing much delay in boring. (It had been agreed in any event to close on the first of December)/ We therefore took the engine and boiler and drill outfit back to Coal Harbor on the 24th. of November.

I returned to Vancouver on the Willipa due next day and Rowe remaining a few days longer to get everything stored away for the winter.

In my opinion it is advisable to continue boring below the seam known as Rowe's seam; and another point that should be considered is that mentioned to one of your directors, viz. the

28 feet of ground reported as Black Shale etc. which contained such an unusual quantity of gas; this hole was bored by a small drill giving only a 5/8 inch core and could not possibly give a reliable section of the ground except in hard strata. You should have this rebored nearer the outcrop by a hole of from 100 to 150 ft. deep, as it is quite probable that there may be a big seam of coal in some part of this thick bed, although the 5/8 inch drill could not get a core to prove it. In that case a small shaft still nearer the outcrop at the second hole could enable you to locate, or prove the matter beyond a doubt.

I think so highly of the general prospects here, that I would advise you to at least clear up, that is 2 points, provided you intend to become coal producers, otherwise it is unnecessary for you to do so.

I should have mentioned before that the Rowe Seam is a Coking Coal, consequently the fact of this being too soft to get a complete core is not important. The 3 bore holes penetrating the Rowe seam, show that this seam underlies all of the other part of your coal field (5,000 acres or more.) Not one of the earlier bore holes are deep enough to reach it. The thickness of this seam in 4/5ths of the property is not known, and it is not known yet whether there are other seams below the point at which we stopped drilling. In November we were certainly still in the Coal measures.

You have a very handy drill and outfit sufficient and suitable for your purposes and on boring you should find:

- 1st. A good sized seam of coal below the Rowe seam.
- 2nd. That the Rowe seam itself at the Eastern end is a foot or so thicker than in our bore holes.
- 3rd. That in the strata bored through by Moore with a 5/8 inch core drill there was a good coal seam passed through but not proven.

In any one of these cases there would be no necessity of further developing the property, either one of these cases proving the fact, the opening up of a fine colliery would be undoubted. Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Pearson, M.E.