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UTAH CO. OF THE AMERICAS

SUMMARY REPORT



INTRODUCTION

During the 1956 field season an investigation was made of the coal deposits of twenty-six square miles of the Fording River coal basin covered by twenty-seven coal licences held by Utah Co.

The field work consisted of geologic and topographic mapping of selected parts of this area with some underground work to obtain samples suitable for coking tests on the coal. This work required an average crew of nine men in the field from June 10 to October 31. In addition, three miners and a fire boss were employed in driving the tunnels.

FIELD WORK

Since suitable geologic and topographic maps were not available for the area, the following preliminary base maps were compiled from 1:30,000 vertical air photographs:

Photo-mosaic Sheet -	ייב –	2640	feet
Topographic Sheet	1º -	1000	feet
Photo-geologic interpretation -	l" -	1000	feet

Transit and tape traverses were run along the ridge crests from triangulation stations established from valley base lines. This net was required for detailed mapping along the ridges. The survey crew consisted of four men and the field work extended over a period of three months.

Preliminary geologic mapping was done on air photographs and this data was transferred to a 1:31,680 planimetric base sheets and covered Bear Mountain, Grouse Mountain, Todhunter Ridge, Fording Ridge and Smith Ridge.

Surface trenching was laid out to test the continuity of the thickest seam encountered and to aid in correlation of the seams between Grouse Mountain and Todhunter Ridge. Five-pound samples were taken for preliminary F.S.I. tests from some of these trenches and from trenches on Grouse and Bear Mountains.

The section of Kootenay beds exposed on both Grouse Mountain and Todhunter Ridge was mapped in detail to aid in seam correlation. A L BRANCH ASSESSMENT F POPRT Bulldczer stripping was used to locate the more promising coal seams near valley level along the east slope of Todhunter Ridge prior to drifting on the seams to obtain suitable bulk samples. Field Work - CONT'D.

First, a rough road of about two miles length was constructed along the west side of Todhunter Creek. About one mile of subsidiary access road was then built to the prospective tunnel sites at a maximum grade of 10%. A second road was built for about one mile up the south side of Ewen Creek to give access to the seams originally explored by the Imperial Coal and Coke Company on the northwest end of Bear Mountain.

In stripping the coal seams, difficulty was experienced both in locating the area to be trenched and in exposing the coal at a suitably low elevation due to the heavy drift cover.

A total of sixteen seams were exposed - ten on Todhunter Ridge and six on Bear Mountain. Six of the seams on Todhunter Ridge were selected for bulk sampling and faced up in preparation for the tunnel driving. Four of the seams on Bear Mountain were similarly exposed although these tunnels were not driven during the 1956 field season.

A total of 370 feet of drifting was completed in 81 eight-hour shifts, with an average rate of advance of 4.6 feet in coal per shift. The drifts were made $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the clear, using three-post sets at roughly five-foot intervals. As a safety measure, the portal sets were placed six feet from the coal outcrop.

Two tunnels were driven simultaneously using two miners to each drift. This procedure entailed a complete mining cycle on every shift. Huwood air picks were used for mining the coal and a Victor auger drill with tungsten carbide insert bits was used in the drilling. Air for these tools was supplied by a 125 c.f.m. compressor which delivered about ninety pounds pressure at each of the two faces. Broken material was removed with onehalf-yard and one-yard buggies built on the property.

Five-pound samples were taken at regular intervals across the exposed width of coal to check the free swelling index. The final bulk sample was cut from the tunnel face to yield approximately 600 pounds of coal.

GEOLOGY

The Kootenay formation is a thick series of non-marine sediments of Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous age. In the Fording and upper Elk coal basin, Kootenay strata underlie about 150 square miles of a large cance-shaped structure.

The formation consists of fine to medium-grained grey to brown sandstones, interbedded grey black and brown shales, several conglomerate beds and a number of coal seams of economic interest. Three beds of pebble conglomerate have been mapped in the Kootenay section in the Fording River area. These beds, though up to thirty feet thick, are of limited areal extent. The basal Kootenay sandstone, which is the most useful marker bed in the formation, occurs at the bottom of a 350-foot section of sandstone which includes many massive beds. At Ewen Creek it is a 50-foot bed of medium to coarse-grained grey sandstone, generally rust-weathered, which forms a prominent outcrop in contrast to the underlying thin bedded shales and sands.

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Geology - CONT'D.

The Kootenay strata are characteristically lensy as indicated by the variation in the interval between successive coal seams measured on both Grouse Mountain and Todhunter Ridge about one mile apart. In the Fording Valley at Ewen Creek, the Kootenay is at least 3500 feet thick on the east limb of the syncline.

The Fording coal basin consists of a broad south-plunging syncline up to six miles wide with the axis following the Fording River valley northwestward into Elk River valley. Minor folds of small amplitude are present in the Kootenay strata on both limbs of the major syncline, but at some distance from the axis.

No positive field evidence was seen of major faulting in the Fording coal basin; however, several small thrust faults were mapped along the east limb of the structure.

DESCRIPTION OF COAL SEAMS

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At least twenty-two coal seams were mapped in the Kootenay formation on the east limb of the syncline. Fourteen of these are considered of sufficient thickness to be of economic interest.

These coal seams were first located along the five main mountain segments in the area: Grouse Mountain, Bear Mountain, Todhunter Ridge, Fording Ridge and Smith Ridge. The entire stratigraphic section was carefully mapped on both Grouse Mountain and Todhunter Ridge, but due to lack of time was not completed on the other ridges.

A fairly good correlation was made between the seams exposed on Grouse Mountain and on Todhunter Ridge. This correlation could not be extended to include the coal seams on Bear Mountain since the stratigraphic mapping was not completed for this section. For convenience, the seams were designated by upper case letters from the top of the Kootenay. The seams exposed on the northwest end of Bear Mountain are indicated by the same lower case letters as used by Dowling¹. These seams occur in the upper Kootenay section well above the coal-bearing strata of Grouse Mountain and Todhunter Ridge.

DOWLING, D.B. (1915) - Coal Fields of British Columbia, Geological Survey of Canada, Memoir No. 69. 3 -

Beam Location		Stratigraphic Position above base of Kootenay (feet)	Average Thickness (feet)	Key to Location		
d	(1)	2900	14.4	(1)	Bear Mountain	
e	(1)	2755	20	(2)	Grouse Mountain	
f	(1)	2675	8.2	(3)	Todhunter Ridge	
h	(1)	2445	7.1	(4)	Tunnel area, Todhunter Creek	
i	(1)	2400	9.0			
I	(2) (3) (4) 1829 - 2060	12.5			
J	(2) (3) (4) 1721 - 1886	13.0			
L	(2) (3)	1461 - 1605	12.0			
N	(2) (3)	1211 - 1398	10			
0	(2) (3) (4) 1028 - 1135	20			
Ρ	(2) (3)	903	20			
Q	(3) (4)	648	14.5			
R	(2) (4)	550	14			
S	(2) (4)	430	8			

COAL SEAMS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE - EWEN CREEK SECTION, FORDING COAL BASIN

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SAMPLING AND TESTING

Five-pound channel samples of all important seams were taken for swelling index tests. These samples were cut in the respective coal seams as exposed by surface trenches, bulldozer cuts and underground workings.

From the six drifts, 600-pound channel samples were cut across the full width of each coal face to include all partings, sand streaks and inclusions. These channels were made two feet wide and one-foot deep across the seam width. This material was mixed on a sampling sheet, coned and quartered to make up the desired quantity. All of the bulk samples were taken a sufficient distance from the portal as to render most weathering effects negligible. The bulk samples were shipped in lined sealed containers to avoid excessive hydration of the coal.

From the results of the swelling index tests on near-surface samples, it was concluded that significant F.S.I. values could only be obtained from samples taken below the zone of oxidation.

A complete proximate analysis was run on each of the bulk samples. These analyses are shown below for the raw coal on the wet ("as received") basis:

Sample	%-Moisture	%-Ash	%-Volatile	%-Fixed Carbon	%-Sulfu r	Calorific Value Btu/pound	Swelling Index <u>A.S.T.M</u> .	Coking Prop.
a*	1.4	8.1	19.1	70.1	-		-	Good
b*	0.9	8.0	21.6	69.5	~	-	-	Good
c*	2.8	5.0	22.8	69.4	-	-	~	Good
e*	4.4	10.9	22.2	62.5	-	-	-	Non-coking
f*	1.4	11.3	23.1	64.2	-	-	-	Good
g*	1.3	11.2	24.7	62.8		-	-	Good
I	2.4	16.3	30.2	51.2	0.64	12,344	7.5	Good
J	3.7	12.1	28.5	55.7	0.65	12,511	1.5	Non-coking
0	2.8	16.1	21.6	59.5	•47	12,169	3.5	Fair
Q	3.7	11.5	21.1	63.7	0.59	12,629	1.0	Non-coking
R	1.4	11.6	22.9	64.0	0.78	13,417	8.0	Good
S	1.6	18.0	21.2	59.3	0.54	12,306	7.5	Good
	* Analys	es of I	mperial Coal	Company	seams (Dow	ling, 1915	- p.48)	

PROXIMATE ANALYSES - FORDING RIVER COAL (AS RECEIVED BASIS)

The washability characteristics of the coal were investigated by Commercial Testing and Engineering Co. of Chicago, using a 1.60 specific gravity heavy liquid. This sink-float test was made on the raw coal crushed to one-quarter inch by O-inch size. These washing tests indicate that a considerable reduction in ash content can be achieved with effective separation of a coal product containing less than 10% ash.

COAL SEAM	PRODUCT <u>% - WEIGHT</u>	<mark>% - DRY ASH</mark>	% - SULFUR
I	Float 83.2	7.97	0.65
	Sink <u>16.8</u>	<u>57.58</u>	<u>0.39</u>
	Total -100.0	16.30	0.61
J	Float 91.2	7.77	0.63
	Sink <u>8.8</u>	<u>58.78</u>	0.47
	Total- 100.0	12.26	0.62
0 0	Float 88.3 Sink <u>11.7</u> Total- 100.0	9 .90 <u>59.88</u> 15 .75	0.51 0.38 0.49
Q	Float 89.6	8.52	0.58
	Sink <u>10.4</u>	<u>49.71</u>	0.29
	Total- 100.0	12.80	0.55
R	Float 91.5	7.15	0.62
	Sink <u>8.5</u>	<u>63.25</u>	<u>0.47</u>
	Total- 100.0	11.92	0.61
S	Float 80.5	9.01	0.51
	Sink <u>19.5</u>	<u>57.08</u>	0.32
	Total- 100.0	18.38	0.47

FLOAT AND SINK ANALYSES OF FORDING RIVER COAL

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LIST OF MAPS

Map No.

- VB-70B-2-1 Structural Sections Upper Elk & Fording River
- VD-70B-2-6 Regional Geology & Topography North, 1" 1000!
- VD-70B-2-7- Regional Geology & Topography South, 1" 1000'
- VB-70B-2-8 Sections of Kootenay Formation
- VB-70B-2-11 Sections of Lower Kootenay Coal Seams (1)
- VB-70B-2-12 ^J Sections of Lower Kootenay Coal Seams (2)
- VC-70B-2-13 Detail, Coal Seams, Todhunter Ridge
- VC-70B-2-14 Detail, Tunnel Area, Todhunter Creek
- VC-70B-2-15 Longitudinal & Vertical Sections, Fording coal basin
- VC-70B-2-16 Detail, Coal Seams, Ewen Creek
- VC-70B-2-17 J Detail, Coal Seams, Grouse Mountain









FIGURE 4

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		Erosion Surface
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222.	Polongolo molo kana l	
222	Mesozoic strata in this section separative	
	the coal-bearing Kootenay strata into two	
	Separate areas: Crowsnest coal basin and	
111	this Tertiary faulting has exposed the	
===	Paleozoic quartzite and limestone in a belt	
===	between the above coal areas.	
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	COAL	- FR 56(2)A
	SHALE	
•	SANDY SHALE	EXPLORATION DEPT VANCOUVER R.C.
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	SANDSTONE	SECTIONS OF KOOTENAY FORMATION
		FERNIE , MICHEL & EWEN CREEK
	CONGLOMERATE	
		FURDING RIVER, B.C.
	CONCEALED	DRAWN F.G.T. 16-4-57 TRACED
		APPROVED REVISED
		SCALE NOH- FOO ST No.
		HORIZONTAL I INCH=4 MILES
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FIGURE 6



