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THE GUYANDOT, W. VA., COAL FIELD.

ANDREW ROY.

In the counties of Wyoming, Logan and Lincoln, in West Virginia, traversed by the Guyandot river, there is an undeveloped coal field of the Middle Coal Measures of the Virginias (the Lower of Ohio and Pennsylvania), containing several beds of coal, of great purity and value, representing the best grades of gas, cannel, steam and domestic coals of the Bituminous varieties. At the head of the valley these coals change to the semi-bituminous of the lower Virginia, or No. XII, Measures, and represent the quality of the seam of coal of the Flat-top, or Pocahontas, field, from which, during the last ten years, there have been mined twenty-two million tons, of 2,240 lbs. to the ton, of coal, of which three and a half million tons have been manufactured into coke.

The coals of the Guyandot basin are the representatives of the seams of the Kanawha and New River fields of West Virginia, the beds of which, at the lower end of the field, are purely bituminous, but which gradually change to the semi-bituminous grades as they approach the uplift of the Alleghanies. Six different beds have, for many years, been mined in the Kanawha region, known, respectively, as the "Cannelton," the "Coalburg," the "Winifrede," the "Campbell Creek," the "Cedar Grove," and the "Eagle" beds. The extraordinary development of these coals during the past fifteen or twenty years is ample proof of their superior quality.

The dip of the coal strata, as all know, is, in West Virginia, the reverse of that in Ohio. The axis of the basin extends some miles across the Ohio river into West Virginia; when the dip is reversed the inclination is more rapid, for a few miles, on the south side than it is on the north side of the basin, being 60 to 80 feet to the mile.

The first bed of coal met above water level in ascending the Guyandot river, emerges from that stream, in fine development, near Four-mile creek, in Lincoln county, about twenty miles southeast of Huntington. Here it measures 9 feet in thickness, with only two thin partings of shale. At Logan Court House,

in Logan county, it is met $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, with a parting of clay in the middle, 18 inches in thickness, which divides the bed into two benches, each $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. The distance between Four-mile creek and Logan C. H. is twenty-five miles; in this interval the same coal bed is seen in the outcrop at many points, always in measurable height and of good quality. This seam represents the upper bed of the Kanawha series, the "Cannelton," or the "Upper Freeport" of the Pennsylvania nomenclature. This is, no doubt, the equivalent of the "Waterloo" coal of the Symmes creek valley of southern Ohio and the "Cambridge" bed of Guernsey county, in which districts it ranges from 4 to 7 feet in thickness. I have seen no analysis of this coal from the Guyandot river, but have carefully examined it at several of the local mines opened on the stream. It is a fine looking coal, free from sulphur, mines in large masses, and will bear handling and shipping well.

The rise of the coal measures, in ascending the Guyandot river above Four-mile creek, are not more than 6 or 8 feet to the mile. At Logan C. H. the "Cannelton" coal is met in the hills about 160 feet above the coal bed along the river. About 120 feet lower the "Coalburg" bed, or "Lower Freeport," is met, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet in thickness and shows, in outcrop, in all the valleys which are cut down to its level. Ten miles below Logan C. H., on the waters of the Guyandot, Big creek and Big Ugly creek, the "Cannelton," or "Upper Freeport," appears, 140 feet above the level of the Guyandot river, 6 feet 4 inches in thickness, the lower bench being 14 inches thick, the slate parting also 14 inches thick, while the top seam is 44 inches thick. Thirty feet above the level of Big creek, a mile from its mouth, the "Coalburg," or "Lower Freeport," is met, 4 feet in thickness without a parting or other impurity.

On the east branch of Twelve-pole river, on Laurel and Cove creeks, there is a superb body of as fine cannel coal as there is in the United States. The bed is 43 inches thick and equally pure from top to bottom. It shows at many outcrops and has been opened in the hills by drifting.

There must be several thousand acres in this deposit alone. This bed is doubtless the equivalent of the "White House" Cannel on the Louisa (Levisa) fork of the Big Sandy river, in Kentucky, where it has been mined for a number of years and sold at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per ton at the pit's mouth.

As we approach the head of the Guyandot river the beds of coal gradually change to the semi-bituminous variety, where they are specially adapted for the manufacture of coke of a similar

grade to that produced from the Pocohantas mines in the Flat-top coal field. [Applause.]

PRESIDENT RAY: As Mr. Roy is not here now, but may be later, it will probably be better to proceed with the program instead of discussing the paper at this time. The next paper is on the subject of "Mine Fires and the Mode of Extinguishing Them," by John Stobs, of Waukegan, Ills.

Thereupon the following paper was read by Mr. Stobs, being illustrated by a large chart: