

840. Analysis of the coal found in the area (50,000 square miles) extending along the base of the Rocky Mountains, from the international boundary to the vicinity of the Peace River—a distance of 500 miles—gives the following result :—

—	Belly River.	Bow River.	Peace River.
Water	6·52	12·37	2·10
Volatile combustible.....	31·03	32·33	21·54
Fixed carbon.....	56·54	46·39	71·63
Ash.....	5·91	8·91	4·73

841. The third coal area is that in the Rocky Mountains. Though small as measured by miles, it contains much coal of the best quality. Several seams of anthracite of excellent quality have been found.

842. The fourth area is that of the Pacific coast. Dr. George M. Dawson gives the following estimate of its extent :—

	Square Miles.
Nanaimo coal basin (coals) approximately correct.....	200
Comox coal basin (coals) rough approximation.....	700
Queen Charlotte's Island very rough approximation.....	800
Tertiary lignite-bearing rocks in different parts of British Columbia south of the 54th parallel of latitude (very rough approximation)	12,000

843. In quality the Vancouver Island bituminous coals are found to be superior for all practical purposes to any coals on the Pacific coast. They rank in San Francisco with the West Hartley coals.

844. In the Comox district the productive measures show ten seams of coal with a total of 29 feet 3 inches, the thickest seam being 10 feet.

845. The character of the coal is evidenced by the following analysis :—

—	Slow Coking.	Fast Coking.
Water	1·47	1·47
Volatile combustible.....	28·19	32·69
Fixed carbon.....	64·05	59·55
Ash.....	6·29	6·29

846. Anthracite in 3-feet and 6-feet seams, comparing favourably with that from Pennsylvania, has been found in Queen Charlotte's Island.

Samples analysed give the following results :—

	Sample 1.	Sample 2.
Water.....	1·60	7·89
Volatile combustible	5·02	4·77
Fixed carbon.....	83·09	85·76
Ash.....	8·76	6·69
Sulphur.....	1·53	0·89