

areas are Coleman, Blairmore-Frank, Livingstone, Moose Mountain, Palliser, Costigan, Sheep Creek and the Bighorn Basin. Referring to seams of one foot or over to a depth of 4,000 feet in the Kootenay formation, the actual reserve, being a calculation based on actual thickness and extent, is 2,696 million tons while the additional probable reserves are 43,123 million tons.

The actual reserves of the province are 386,373 million tons and the probable reserves are 673,554 million tons.

British Columbia.—While the coals of Nova Scotia and of the eastern half of the United States are derived from the Carboniferous formation, those of the Pacific slope occur in association with much later rocks referable to the Mesozoic and Tertiary periods. In British Columbia the formations known to contain coal or lignites are the Cretaceous and the Tertiary. The coal occurs in at least two distinct stages of the Cretaceous. The lower includes the coal measures of Queen Charlotte island, of Quatsino sound, Vancouver island and of Crowsnest pass in the Rocky mountains. The upper includes the coal measures of Nanaimo and Comox, and probably also those of Suquamish and other localities. The character of the coals, while dependent to a certain extent on its stratigraphical position, depends largely upon the conditions of metamorphism to which they, with the rocks containing them, have been subjected. This is well illustrated by the Tertiary coal in the interior basins of British Columbia being highly bituminous instead of lignitic, while on the Queen Charlotte islands the Cretaceous coals range from high grade bituminous to broken anthracite. There are three main districts in which coal mining operations are being actively pursued. These are the Crowsnest pass in the eastern part of the province, the Nicola valley district in the central part and the east coast of Vancouver island.

The Crowsnest Pass.—The coalfield is situated immediately west of the summit of the Rocky mountains in Crowsnest pass. By taking the area covered by the coal measures as being 230 square miles and assuming a workable thickness of coal seams of 100 feet, McEvoy arrives at 22,595 million tons as the quantity of total available coal in the area. The opening of coal mines in this field marked an epoch in the development of the province, as the smelting industry of the Kootenays had to depend previously in a great measure on coke from the coast coal mines.

Nicola Valley.—The coalfield is situated to the south of Nicola lake in the Kamloops district. Although not as extensive as the Crowsnest field or the Vancouver island field, it is yet of great economic importance. Produced mid-way between the more extensive fields, the coal of Nicola valley is manifestly destined to find a market in a considerable part of central British Columbia.

Telwka Valley.—In the northern part of the province, a field which attracts great interest, owing to its proximity to the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, is the Telwka valley. Some of these areas are of considerable extent and have been proven to contain coal varying from a bituminous to a semi-anthracite in beds of a workable thickness.

Groundhog Mountain.—The Groundhog coalfield, about 140 miles by trail north from Hazelton near the headquarters of the west fork of the Skeena river, is also of great promise. The coal is anthracite or semi-anthracite in character. The field extends in a northwesterly direction about 75 miles and has a width in places of about 30 miles.

Vancouver Island.—The island has been the seat of the coal mining industry since 1836. In recent years its output has not only supplied a local demand but has been largely exported to the state of California. The active fields are