

HAMILTON (LANGLOIR) COAL MINE

It has become increasingly obvious to the owners of this mine that, in order to place production on a safe and economic basis, the old workings, including the main heading, will have to be abandoned and new openings sought. Fortunately this does not appear to offer difficulties.

A short boring campaign was recently undertaken to find the position of the coal seam to the west and south of the present workings. Unfortunately a diamond drill was not available; but one of the Department's Percussion plants was in the Hamilton District for a water-boring campaign, and as the matter appeared rather urgent, it was decided to use this. Thus, although the position of the coal would be, and was, determined, it was not possible to obtain any information as to its quality.

On a contour plan of the coal-bearing area, the strike pattern of the theoretical coal seam, as disclosed in the limits of the old workings, was superimposed. Three sites were selected for drilling, the first near the floor of a valley to the west of the mine and the other two on the flanks of a hill south west of the mine and facing south. Theoretically the coal seam should have been intersected at about 50 feet in the first bore and 30 feet in the next two. The actual depths to the coal were 50 feet, 29 feet and 19 feet. The fact that the seam was so close to the predictions, indicates that, unless there are remarkably coincidental compensations, there can be very little in the way of faulting or rolling in this area. It would appear that the seam is dipping to the north west at about 1°.

Details of the three holes as supplied by the driller are as follows: -

No. 1

0'-6" Surface
6"-13" Yellow sandstone
13'-17' Grey sandstone
17'-26' Yellow sandstone
26'-27' Grey sandstone
27'-30' Brownish sandstone
30'-49' Grey sandstone
49'-50' Grey shale
50'-60' Coal
60'-66' Grey shale
66'-68' Coal
68'-77' Grey shale

No. 2

0-1'6"
1'6"-24' Yellow sandstone
24'-27' Grey sandstone
27'-29' Grey-black shale
29'-37' Coal
37'-44' Grey-black shale
44'-47' Coal
47'-49' Grey shale

No. 3

0'-2'6" Surface
2'6"-19' Yellow sandstone
19'-22' Coal
22-23 Black shale
23-28 Coal
28-33 Shale

With a percussion plant it is not possible to accurately determine the bands but it would appear that the seam was 10 feet in No. 1, 8 ft. in No. 2 and 9 ft. in No. 3. The driller can of course only estimate to the nearest foot. It should be noted that the roof is shale on Nos. 1 and 2 and sandstone on No. 3. The bottom seam of coal, 2-3 feet in width was not reached in No. 3.

2.

It would appear that the Number 3 site is the best for future testing because:

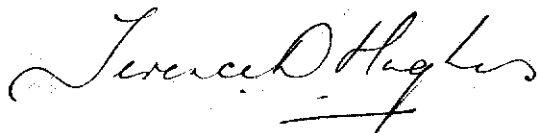
1. There is plenty of room for bins etc. on the hillside below. There is not at No. 1.

2. Unfortunately it is not possible to get a site where the coal can be cut up the dip. At site 1, once the coal is located this would be possible but it would need a heading, first, sloping down to intersect the coal 30 feet below the valley floor. At site 2, the direction of a heading would be almost along the strike line and so flat. The slope down of a heading at site 3 should be about 1 in 50.

3. Site 3 is the closest to existing roads and a road could probably be put into it for less money than to the other sites.

4. The roof of the seam is sandstone at 3 and shale at 1 and 2.

Having obtained this information, the next step is to test the coal at this point and to do this a small trial heading should be put in commencing from 19 feet vertically below No. 3 Bore.



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