

JPA

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Date Visited: Feb. 1943.

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

COAL IN EASTERN END OF LOWER POWDER VALLEY, VIRTUE DISTRICT, BAKER COUNTY,

A series of low grade coal beds have been encountered by ranchers in drilling wells at various places throughout the eastern end of the lower Powder River Valley, and a minor amount of prospecting is reported as having been done on them from time to time. However, about 1920, a group of men including Messrs. Fellows, Pierce, Perkins and Ray leased a considerable acreage and did considerable prospect developing in an area located approximately in Sec. 4-9; T 9S - R 43E. Some drilling was done and three shafts sunk. The largest shaft was vertical and about 130 feet deep. It cut an irregular, broken up coal seam which was on top of lava. This lava, as seen on the dump, is extremely full of bubble holes. The next biggest shaft was 70 feet on about a 15° incline. It followed a 4 foot bed, from which about 30 to 50 tons were mined and sold in Baker. The third incline was short and on a two foot bed of coal which was reported as being of better grade than the others.

Whereas analyses were made on the coal, the results are not available at this time. The BTU was reported as being high, as was also the ash. In addition, the coal slacked very much, and only spots of carbonaceous soil could be found marking the spot where chunks had been.

A cursory examination revealed all workings to be caved except the vertical shaft. This was open and with the timber in apparently good shape, but ladders were loose and no attempt was made to inspect the section.

Although the site of this particular development lies well within a belt of Tertiary sediments, I hesitate to assign the coal to that age without more field study, as some outcrops of bedrock in the vicinity appear suspiciously like Clover Creek Greenstone. This latter is of Permian age and occurs to considerable

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extent on the hills to the north of Power Powder River Valley. Locally, islands of the Clover Creek Greenstone do occur in this Tertiary belt. However, this point is purely of geologic significance and in no wise enhances the economic potentialities of the coal which was manifestly of an inferior grade. Undoubtedly most of the coal encountered by well drilling throughout the valley at large is in characteristic Tertiary Sediments, and is comparable to that in the Tertiary sediments near Auburn, Baker County, as described by Gilluly, Bull. 879, U.S.G.S.

Informants: Wm. Pierce
W. Fellows

Rept by N.S. Wayne

Louis Powder Coal Company

NAME

OLD NAMES

Coal
PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

4/46

95

T

43E

R

4-9

S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Daku..... COUNTY

Vestue..... AREA

..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S)

Address

OPERATOR

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

REPORTS

Coal in Eastern ~~Region~~ End of Horn Powder Valley - NSW 2/1943

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SHIPMENT AND ASSAY RECORDS

MAPS