

# TABULAR ESTIMATE

SHOWING THE APPROXIMATE QUANTITY, PAST AND FUTURE, PRODUCTION OF COAL IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS OF THE NORTHERN ANTHRACITE COAL BASIN OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
DISTRICTS.	NAMES OF THE COAL BEDS.	DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS.	Average thickness of beds.	Approximate workable area of bed in acres.	Approximate quantity of solid coal originally in place before any was mined, in place before any was mined, etc.,										

## EXPLANATION OF TABULAR ESTIMATE.

Showing the Approximate Quantity, Past and Future, Production of Coal in the Several Districts of the Northern Anthracite Coal Basin of Pennsylvania.

Editors "The Colliery Engineer".

SIR:—I herewith offer for publication an estimate of the approximate quantity and past and future production of coal in the several districts of the Northern Anthracite Coal Basin, more generally known as the Wyoming and Lackawanna Coal Fields.

In making this estimate it was found most convenient to divide the region into districts as shown in Column No. 1 of the table, this will serve to show the distribution of the coal. Column No. 2 gives the local names applied to the various beds in each district, and are arranged with reference to their relative positions in the measures.

Column No. 3 contains short descriptive remarks as to known peculiarities of the individual beds. Column No. 4 contains the average thickness of the individual coal beds in each district and includes all beds that average over two feet thick. While these thin beds are not worked at the present time, they cannot be disregarded in an estimate of this sort, as the time will doubtless come when they will be profitably mined. The items in this column were obtained by taking the average thickness of each bed as found by using all the bore-hole, shaft, and other sections in the different parts of the basin, as published in the atlases of the State Geological Survey of the region.

The number of columnar sections of the measures thus used was 352, about evenly distributed throughout the basin. The totals in this column show the aggregate thickness of coal beds at the deepest point of the measures for each district. The items given in this column includes whatever slate, bone, and other refuse there may be in the beds.

Column No. 5 contains the approximate superficial area of workable coal in each bed, and was obtained from the published maps of the Geological Survey, which very correctly show the outcrops of the lowest coal bed and one other bed that is the most worked in each locality.

The outcrops of all the other beds were sketched approximately upon these maps by the author from his personal knowledge of the geology of the region, aided by the published cross sections and columnar sections. The area of each bed was then computed for each district, deductions were occasionally made from the areas thus found, in order to allow for those areas where certain beds are known to be too thin to be included in the table.

Owing to the prevailing flatness of the measures in this region, no account has been taken of the greater area of coal caused by steeper dips at the margin of the

basin, or on the sides of the anticlinals. The actual area of the coal beds will therefore be somewhat in excess of the items given in the table, but this increase of area will doubtless be more than counter-balanced by the loss caused by poor and unminable coal on the outcrops, anticlinals, faults, troubles of various kinds, etc., which would seem to call for an allowance in addition to those referred to under Column 5. An arbitrary deduction of 4.7% is therefore made on this account. Therefore taking specific gravity of Anthracite coal at 1.5, the weight of good coal in ground per foot thickness of bed per acre would be

Column No. 6 contains the approximate quantity of solid coal in the ground before any was mined. The items are obtained by multiplying the thickness of each bed as is given in Column 4 by the items in Column 5, and this product by the factor 1,400, as being the number of tons of pure coal per foot per acre in the average coal bed after deducting 23-4% for the slate, bone, and other refuse, including an allowance for rock, and dirt faults, etc., which always occur in greater or less degree in all large areas.

In order to arrive at an average percentage for the refuse, the author obtained bed sections in various parts of the region from as many coal beds as possible, and from them ascertained the following facts:

	No. of bed sections.	Total thickness of beds.	Total thickness of refuse.	Per cent. of refuse.
Wilkes-Barre and Plymouth District.....	61	503.01 feet	115.1 feet	19.4%
Pittston District.....	28	236.91 "	43.3 "	18.4%
Scranton District.....	33	322.72 "	57.5 "	17.8%
Total.....	122	1162.64 "	215.9 "	18.7%

The above would seem to show that the refuse material in the average coal bed will amount to 18.7% of the contents of the bed.

The frequent occurrence of troubles, such as thin and poor coal, various kinds of faults, slips, squeezes, etc., etc., would seem to call for an allowance in addition to those referred to under Column 5. An arbitrary deduction of 4.7% is therefore made on this account. Therefore taking specific gravity of Anthracite coal at 1.5, the weight of good coal in ground per foot thickness of bed per acre would be