

TR6-55-57.  
**Section 2—Coal**  
**COAL AT WEST TAKONE**

by T. D. Hughes.

**SUMMARY**

A coal seam of high quality, but only one foot in thickness, is exposed in a creek bed five miles from West Takone. (See figure 14.)

**GENERAL**

Mr. B. Farquhar of Scottsdale has, during logging operations, been prospecting for coal in the West Takone District and has located a narrow seam in a small creek bed.

**LOCATION AND ACCESS**

West Takone is 25 miles from the port of Burnie in north-western Tasmania. A road has recently been constructed from West Takone to a point just above the old Victory Mine. At about five miles from the West Takone Post Office a branch road turns to the north and less than a mile along this is a bulldozed track to the east, leading, in under a mile, to the coal outcrop. Due to logging operations and the weathering of the Permian mudstone, this track is very muddy and cannot be traversed by wheeled vehicles.

**GEOLOGY**

Permian mudstone and sandstone, sparse in outcrop, occupy much of this locality and are overlain towards West Takone by Tertiary basalt. These Permian rocks contain coal seams and may be correlated with the Mersey Coal Measures of Tasmania. To the north-east, near Preolenna, several distinct seams have been mapped but at present only one seam has been located in this area.

**THE COAL SEAM**

This seam, only one foot in width, is well exposed in several places on either bank of a small stream flowing generally west into the Arthur River. The floor consists of a hard coarse white sandstone which outcrops prominently in the creek bed. The roof consists of over four feet of brown to black shale and above this is a finer grained sandstone which was not seen in outcrop. The strata generally has a dip to the north ( $340^{\circ}$ - $360^{\circ}$ ) of about  $11^{\circ}$ .

**QUALITY**

This is a high grade coal containing low ash and moisture but is high in sulphur. Analyses showed:—

	%
Volatile material .....	40.8
Fixed carbon .....	50.8
Ash .....	8.4
Sulphur .....	4.06
Moisture .....	0.9

B.T.H.U. — 14.010

Approx. Sp. Gr. — 1.25

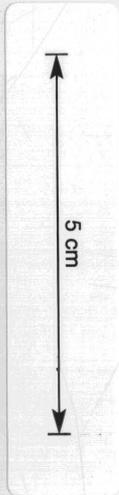
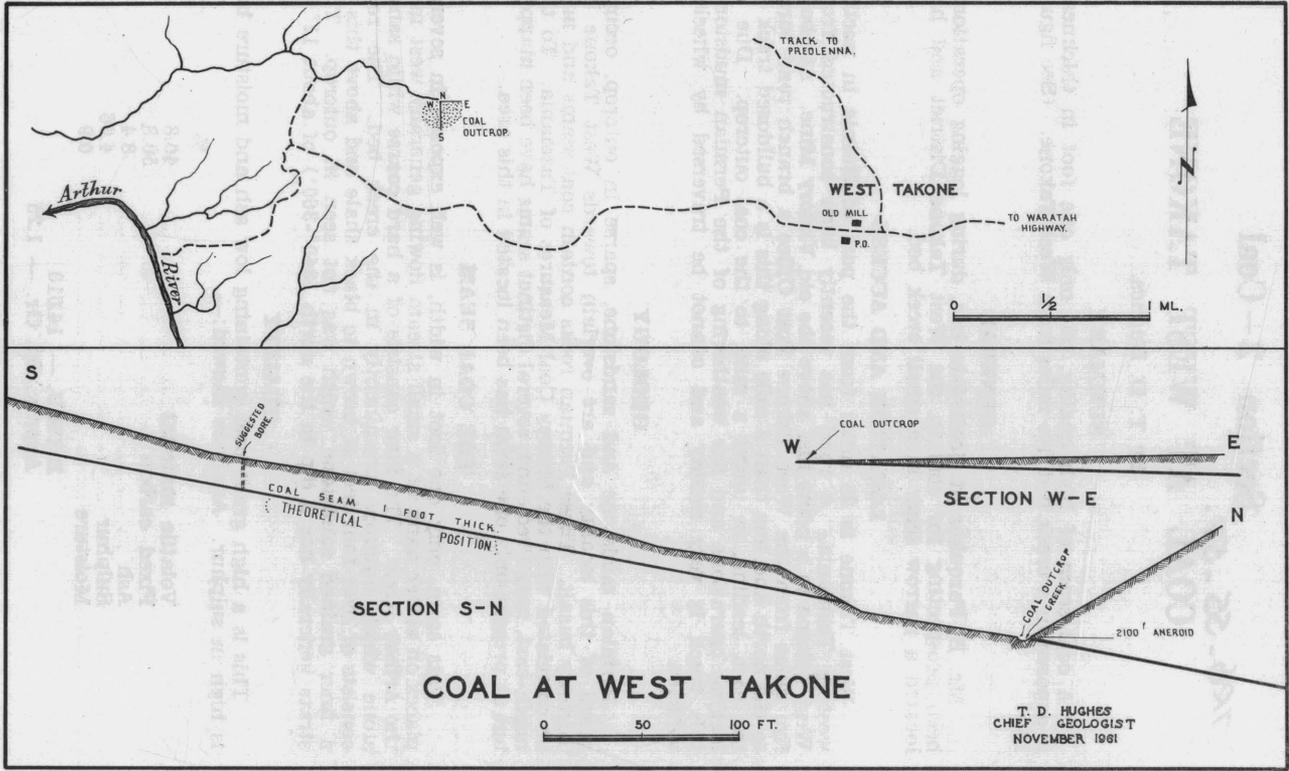


FIGURE 14.



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Cont

### QUANTITY

The coal was only seen at one locality and no attempt was made at a detailed survey. The creek flows in a generally westerly direction with a grade of about  $1^{\circ}$ - $2^{\circ}$  and the southern bank, with minor variations, rises at about  $14^{\circ}$  for 400 feet and then steepens. The northern bank of the creek rises steeply at  $30^{\circ}$ . The theoretical components of the dip of the coal seam in three directions, i.e., south, east and west, approximate that of the surface so that it would appear that an open cut proposition would be feasible. However, the extremely narrow width of the coal seems to preclude any economic recovery, in spite of its favourable attitude and high quality. A few figures may make this clear. With a seam one foot thick there would be available 43,560 cubic feet of coal to the acre. Assuming 20 cubic feet to the ton, this would mean less than 2,200 tons to the acre. The level of the ground is quite uneven so that in quite small lateral extensions the overburden ratio, at its most favourable, would have considerable variation and the theoretical overburden thickness of ten to twenty feet shown on the section may vary considerably outside these limits. Other factors, such as faulting, rolling and change of dip may also militate against a constant overburden.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It would seem that because of its narrow width, a detailed survey in this area, covered as it is by thick scrub and horizontal is not warranted.

Should Mr. Farquhar decide to investigate the seam further I would suggest that a hole be put down at four hundred feet south of the outcrop, that is, at right angles to the creek, to test the thickness of overburden.