

FROM OFFICE.

The State of Wyoming
Office of State Geologist
Cheyenne

June 13, 1903.

Mr. Moses Bijur,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Complying with your request of the 30th of May, I hand you the following preliminary report upon the coal land of La Prele Oil Company at Inez Station in Converse County, this State, and hope this may aid you in opening up these lands.

Very truly yours,



State Geologist.

THE STATE OF WYOMING
Office of State Geologist
Cheyenne

PRELIMINARY REPORT

on COAL LANDS

of

LA PRELE OIL COMPANY,
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING.

ORGANIZATION.

The Company known as "La Prele Oil Company of Wyoming" is organized under the laws of the State of Wyoming with a capital of \$200000.00 divided into 20000 shares of the par value of \$10.00 each.

The headquarters of this Company are at Cheyenne, Wyo. and the officers are follows;

President,	Moses Bijur,	New York City.
1st Vice Pres.	John Hull, Jr.	Binghamton, N. Y.
2nd Vice Pres.	Erastus Straup	Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Secretary,	A. Bijur,	New York City.
Treasurer,	Fred Winkler,	New York City.
Superintendent,	Geo. J. Gierisch,	Douglas, Wyo.

LOCATION and EXTENT.

The coal lands discussed in this report lie on the line of the Chicago and North Western Railroad near Inez Station, about fifteen miles west of the town of Douglas, in Converse County, Wyoming and are given as follows:-

Sections 13-14-15- 22-23-24-and 27 and portions of Sections 11-12-25 and 26 in Township 33 North Range 73 West, and Section 18 and portion of Sections 7-17 and 19 of Township 33 North. Range 72 West, making a tract five miles long and three and a half miles wide, as per

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the maps of the Company and comprising some 6860 acres.

Of these lands, the major portion contains coal, about 3800 acres being included in that portion lying within or north of the crop line and the balance lying outside or south of this line, the dip being northeasterly as hereafter described.

FORMATIONS.

The formation containing the coal is the upper Laramie Cretaceous formation and consists of alternate layers of sandstones, clays, shales, etc. of varying size and extent, and containing a number of veins of coal at irregular intervals.

These veins vary from a few inches to several feet in thickness and present a varying condition of floor and roof, according to their occurrence in the formation.

In the Inez vicinity these formations have a general north-westerly and southeasterly strike along the outcrop and a dip of about 18 degrees to the north-east.

These outcrops extend diagonally across the described lands from the south west corner of Section 24, north westerly across Sections 24, 23, 15, 16, 8 and 7, Township 33, N. Range 73 West to a point where the Platte river cuts through the stratum, and several veins of coal are exposed in Section .

From this line the coal pitches ,as above, under the lands lying along the railroad at this point, the beds extending under the river and beyond. In this outcrop nine veins of coal are noted two of which have been worked on a Commercial scale and others worked under proper conditions.

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WORKINGS.

On Section 16, as above, these veins have been worked on a comparatively limited scale, the coal being mined and shipped by the Fetterman Coal Company in 1888 and later by the Inez Coal Co. but these workings are now abandoned.

At the present time, a man by the name of Gross is mining and shipping in a small way and has a good quality of coal.

COAL.

This coal is a lignite and decrepitates on exposure to wind and sun but if dried under shelter, as in shipping in closed box cars, it does not go to pieces as readily as some of the other coals of this class.

An average analysis of this coal is given as follows;

Moisture,	14.65 %
Volatile Matter,	36.05 %
Fixed Carbon,	42.50 %
Ash,	6.80 %

This coal is suited for steam purposes under natural draught but is too light for locomotive fuel or use under forced draught. For domestic fuel and general heating purposes, it gives general satisfaction and burns readily with a clean hot flame.

VEINS.

The veins already opened up average about five feet in thickness and are free from slate and other dirt, giving a clean coal with little trouble in mining and handling.

The three principal veins lie close together near the bottom of the formation and show a solid roof condition, as far as can be seen

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from the workings now accessible and the general formation exposed in the outcrops.

DEVELOPMENT.

The work hitherto on these coals has been done by slopes driven on the dip of the vein and on a limited scale but it is beleived that a shaft method would be the most practicable way of opening up these coals on a commercial scale and materially reduce the expense of handling the coal, though the expense of the initial plant would be considerable.

The position and shape of the coal bearing portions of this and adjoining lands, the proximity of the railroad and river, the dip of the formation and topography of the land, all indicate that a shaft situated at a convenient point and of size capable of handling a large tonnage is the proper method to open up this coal.

Beginning at the western end of this triangle, a series of drill holes should be put down to determine the depths of the coal, size of veins and quality, the conditions of roof and floor and other questions to be considered in opening works of this sort.

From this central shaft or shafts the coal from the different veins should be worked, being delivered to the main level by chutes and bins, and by electric haulage collected and delivered to the hoisting works from both directions, as may be determined by the location of the shaft.

Experience has shown that in these formations that a diamond drill is of little use and it is recommended that a churn drill be used in these exploration holes. By carefull work in operating and by keeping a log of the work, the above mentioned conditions may be accurately determined.

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At this time it is not necessary to go into details of this development but the above is submitted and believed to be worthy of serious consideration by your Company, as there are many reasons why this coal and its kindred industries may be made a profitable investment if properly opened up and handled.

The question of markets for the coal and products should be first considered but as the whole of western and central Nebraska is a practically open field and a constantly growing local market is developing this question may be readily determined.

As you are familiar with the locality and smaller details of this property, I will not go into this matter at this time but will be pleased to aid your future work in any way.

Respectfully Submitted,



State Geologist.