

Acton March 1848

My Dear Sir

I have received to day your note enclosing a statement respecting the coal of Carabacoo Cove, Cape Breton. I regret that I can give the Committee no report upon it as I have not explored any part of Cape Breton. The latest information that I possess in relation to these coal measures is contained in a paper by R. Brown Esq of Sydney published in the Proceedings of the Geological Society of London. I send you an extract from this paper as the Committee may not have access to it.

"A few thin seams of coal, of no practical value have been found in this tract; viz. at St Peters; at the mouth of the River Inhabitants; and at Carabacoo Cove, near Bear Island. It has not been ascertained how far the millstone grit extends up the valley of the River Inhabitants, but workable seams of coal are said to occur twelve miles above its mouth." (Proc. Geol. Socy. May 15, 1844).

This extract shows that the coal field in question has not been thoroughly examined. It appears however from a map attached to another paper by Mr Brown that this coal field is nearly as extensive in its area as that

of Sydney, and is not connected with it.

In reference to surveying this coal field I presume the committee would require such an examination as should ascertain the number extent and value of the beds of coal the quality of the coal and of any other useful minerals that might be associated with it, and as far as practicable the best localities for working the deposits. This I think could be satisfactorily accomplished in three months. I would undertake to employ that time upon it for £200; £130 of this to be for personal expenses and salary and the remaining £70 for labour employed and not to be expended unless required. It will be understood that three months are to be employed in the field and that the examination of the minerals procured and preparation of the report would occupy much additional time. If a more hasty examination be all that is required or if the beds which appear at Curacao come alone are to be explored, I would work at them for a shorter time at the same rate.

Memorandum of the cost of exploring the Coal-
field of Carabacoo Cove &c

1 A detailed exploration of the whole
Coal-field of Carabacoo Cove, R. Inhabitants
and St Peter's; to develope as far as practicable
its whole structure and capabilities; with anal-
yses or assays of the minerals procured, com-
plete suite of specimens and detailed report: To
occupy in the field three months:—£ 150 with
liberty to expend £ 50 additional, in excava-
tions &c, if necessary.

2 A particular examination of the
beds of Carabacoo Cove alone, to ascertain
their precise mining value; with analyses
& report; £ 50, with liberty to expend £ 30
additional on excavations.

3 A reconnaissance of the whole field
of Carabacoo, R. Inhabitants, & St Peter's, with the view of
giving a report on its general value, and of cur-
rently examining beds which may appear dis-
tinctly in Coast or River sections; not to occupy
more than four weeks in the field; £ 50.

Wharfedale

(1885) Calcutta local