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Mem. of Information

THE COAL OF BORNEO AND TONKIN FROM THE STRATEGIC STANDPOINT.

The important part which fuel plays in naval warfare is well known. From this standpoint the coal mines of Borneo, confronted with those of Tonkin, deserve our careful attention.

The importation of coal from this island to Singapore has increased in the last four years from 5,531 to 17,843 tons.

As such importation means great competition to the coal of India, the Mining Association of the latter country has recently tested three samples of Borneo coal from the mines of Sadong, Labouan and Mouara. These tests have shown the following results:

	Sadong	Labouan	Mouara
Volatile matter -----	42.04	42.34	47.54
Free carbon -----	56.27	54.97	50.79
Ashes -----	1.69	2.69	1.67
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>

These analyses, says the "Indian Engineering", are almost identical with those of the best coal of Bengal.

The production of the "Société française des Charbonnages du Tonkin" (French Society of Coal Mining of Tonkin) appears to have entered on a more active period, if we are to believe the sales made during the first five months of 1896 to Hongkong. These sales were:

In January,	6,633 tons	as against	5,856	in 1895;
" February,	6,118	" " "	2,587	" "
" March,	10,033	" " "	2,969	" "
" April,	7,583	" " "	3,408	" "
" May,	11,279	" " "	4,968	" "

The coal invests Tonkin, as stated above, with great importance in connection with naval war. But we need at this ^{base} ports of refuge and docks that are easy to defend, such as are found at Tonkin, from the Cat-ba to the Chinese boundary, at Quang-Yen, in the Bay of Along, and at Port Walnut. Without such bases, our ships will be reduced to impotence, especially as at the first declaration of war the mines of the Tonkin coast will surely fall into the hands of the enemy. * * * * *

(Translated from "La Marine française, 1897, p.123.)

PACIFIC COAST NOTES.

R.D.Chandler says it is an erroneous idea to believe that there is no Anthracite in the world except that in Pennsylvania. The Tonquin fields, belonging to the Chinese Government, in China, can produce millions of tons of Anthracite, which, according to United States Government tests, is equal to the Pennsylvania coal. There is a cargo of 1800 tons of Tonquin coal now en route to San Francisco, which brings to mind the cargo brought here and auctioned in April, 1894. Nobody knew the coal and it sold for \$1.00 a ton. However, samples that were left here at that time are equal to anything from the Welsh or Pennsylvania mines. As soon as American or English capital or methods open up the Tonquin mines, they will be the greatest factor in our foreign coal trade.

From THE COAL TRADE JOURNAL (New York) Aug.5,1896.

COAL AT HONGAY, INDO-CHINA.

Up to the present time the coal deposits of French Indo-China have been but little worked. The two principal mines are situated in the districts of Hongay and Kebas, but the coal found there is of a very inferior quality and cannot at all compare with the Australian, nor even with the Japanese coal. It is a kind of low anthracite. The "French CM.Co., of Tonquin, Paris and Hongay," was established in 1887, with a full-paid capital of 6,000,000 francs. The main colleries of this com-

pany are situated in the neighborhood of the town of Nagatna, where coal is mined to a depth of about 850 feet; at another district, near Haton, the coal appears in open cuts, and, though the available quantity is very considerable, the quality of the coal leaves much to be desired. Both mines are situated about 4 or 5 miles from the port of Hongay, with which place they are connected by a narrow-gauge railway line, on which the traffic is being carried on by means of three little engines and 35 freight cars. Most of the miners employed in these mines are Chinese; the Europeans number about 50. There has also been erected at Hongay a briquette factory, but, as even for this purpose, the native coal was too poor, it had to be mixed with coal imported from Japan. Though these Indo-Chinese briquettes are not at all liked by the firemen, yet the French Government has ordered the Messagerie SS.Co., which in the Asiatic traffic is subsidized by the Government, to have all their steamers provided with at least 60 per cent. of these briquettes. The French men-of-war also take a part of these briquettes when on the Asiatic service. Another leading customer of this fuel is the great tin smelting works at Singapore, which uses Hongay dust coal for smelting purposes, paying \$5.00 per ton c.f. Singapore. For coaling purposes, however, in spite of the very low price, no steamer will take this coal at Singapore. The total annual production of the Hongay mines amounts to about 240,000 tons. "G".

From THE COAL TRADE JOURNAL (New York) May 24, 1899.

Coal is worked at Hongay, the output in 1899 having been 276,000 tons.

From THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK, 1902.