

Notes on Limestone Formations in vicinity of M.S.L.R.R.

The limestone strata being mined or quarried at present in the Bessemer-Hillsville area, and at Wampum, Ellwood City and New Castle Junction, is identified as the Vanport Strata. In Lawrence County the strata are regular and lie nearly flat. There is a general slight dip to the south, but strata of economic importance are regular enough to permit mining or quarrying.

Areas near Bessemer, Hillsville and New Castle are good for stripping operations, and at Wampum mining is required because of the deep cover. Generally the Vanport Strata varies from 14 to 23 feet in thickness, averaging 18 feet, and is found to be rather uniform in thickness and character. In Lawrence County the strata occurs at elevations in the neighborhood of 1,050 feet above sea level, making it possible to operate quarries and mines.

In Beaver County the Vanport Strata occurs too low for quarrying, and any mining would be carried on by drifts. The outcrop is restricted generally to the deeper valleys, such as the Ohio and Beaver Rivers and Bradys Run.

North of the Mahoning River the limestone occurring have been largely eroded, except near Lowellville, where the Vanport Strata occurs 10 to 18 feet in thickness. These deposits have been worked for a good many years and furnish a product used for portland cement and furnace flux.

In Columbiana and Mahoning Counties, Ohio, the Vanport Strata covers a large area, but due to thin strata varying from several inches to about two feet, it would not be profitable to exploit, and consequently is of no economic importance.

The upper and lower Mercer Limestone underlies the Vanport Strata generally at depths of 110 feet to 135 feet, but because the vein varies from 2 to 4 feet, and is too ferruginous and siliceous to give a good product, it is of no economic importance.

There are various coal strata underlying these limestone areas. The upper Freeport and lower Kittanning, separated by about 177 feet (average) are the most important. General coal stripping operations are being worked at localities to the north and south of Cannelton, in Little Beaver, Darlington and South Beaver Townships. Some of this coal is shipped via the P.L.&W.R.R., particularly from south of Cannelton. Operations adjacent to State Highway Route 204, transport the product by trucks exclusively

References:

- Limestones of Pennsylvania - B.L. Miller (1934)
- U.S. Geol. Survey Atlas Folio - New Castle Quad. - DeWolf
- Geol. Survey of Ohio - (1924) Bulletins #4 and #28

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