

## Sand Coulee Coal Co.

H. Burrell,

Manager.

Sand Coulee, Mont., Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1892.

Dear D. Harrington:

You will perhaps have wondered where I have disappeared to.

I left Montreal at a days notice for St. Paul without knowing myself where I was going & came out here with J Hill President of the Great Northern Ry. who own these mines. Had a very pleasant journey out in the special there being quite a party on board & within 3 hours of arriving started for the north with the Pres<sup>t</sup> & manager of the Coal Co to look up some property near the Canadian Line. Part of the trip was very uncomfortable, travelling over the prairie in a wagon with no springs & sleeping in an overcoat, but that all came in a days work -

Then I was sent on a longer trip the other side of the mountains into the Flathead Valley to look up some coal for the road, the manager being with me for a couple of weeks. We first traveled with pack horses up the Kootenai R. to the Elk R. coal deposits in B.C. described by Dr Dawson & after examining them I explored the country south of the line, over the South Kootenai pass & the Flathead & Shellwater valleys

The coal deposits so far discovered in the Flathead valley are lignitic in character not suited for steam making besides being poorly situated for mining.

I got back to Sand Coulee Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, the results being only negative. I may have to go again in spring to examine further east into the main range but that is not settled.

Then I accompanied Mr Cocker our president & Mr Dunell the Mgr. to a property near Butte that they are interested in which is a very promising free gold proposition which we spent two days in examining.

On my return I visited the Downlunnon Mine at Manville, one of the big producers which has the best plant in the state & saw everything, our manager's brother being employed there.

A couple of weeks ago I was sent to examine a silica deposit used for furnace linings, near Butte in the interests of the Railway, so you see I've seen considerable of Montana in the short time that I have been here.

My work at Sand Coulee where I expect to pass the winter is surveying & office work but I have lots of spare time except around payday when every thing rushes.

Our output is 1000 tons a day or a little more, all over one chute & last month the payroll was \$30,000, so you see it is a big concern. The climate is perfect so far as I have yet experienced it & I think I've made a good start. I get \$100 a month now, but my salary is not definitely settled.

I should be glad to hear from you when you can spare the time, as my thoughts often turn to the old college & those I know there. Remember me to Evans & the family. Yours very truly  
H. Hamilton Walker

W. H. Walker  
Nov 1922