

Benham, Ky., March 22, 1919.

Mr. B. W. Batchelder,
Gen'l Supt. of Mines,
Nashwauk, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

I am attaching herewith print showing the jack rock in 2nd left entry off fourth right face entry #1 mine. This jack rock is from 5" to 6" thick and we have about 18" to 20" of coal between it and the floor and 46" to 48" of coal above the jack rock to the roof. This jack rock is becoming so hard that while shooting the coal we cannot break it down and in the photograph it took twelve sticks of powder to shoot the amount of coal shown, which was about 5-1/2'.

From indications on our main entry and indications on the fourth right face entry as well as the butt entries to the left off fourth right face it seems that this parting has come to stay. While the thickness itself does not count so greatly against us, the fact that the coal seems burned or adhered to the jack rock to such an extent that it gives us 5" or 6" of coal clinging to the jack rock on each side. This coal is very hard to remove from this rock. From indications of the rock it began as a soft clay sand, gradually hardening up into a semi-slate and from that to sand rock very hard.

This entry as shown in the photograph at the present time is idle and we cannot get men to work it under our prevailing price. As I see it now, we can, first, proceed under our present plan of working and pay the men about 15¢ per inch per lineal yard, which would mean about \$1.75 per foot, or figuring seven cars of coal per foot, an additional expense of 25¢ per car. Second, we can provide an arcwall machine and cut on top of the jack rock, load the coal out, and then shoot up the bottom coal with the jack rock. The expense would be about the same excepting that not so much powder would be required. Third, we can place our track above the jack rock and work the seam lying above it, which is approximately 46" to 48".

In discussing this jack rock question with Mr. Billips of the Lynch mines he believes that it will gradually thicken up as we go toward Clover Lick to where it will be impossible to try to get the coal lying beneath it. This matter can wait until you come down, however the time has come now when we must decide on which plan we will adopt or whether we will pay the extra price and investigate further by proceeding with our entries.

Yours very truly,

WISCONSIN STEEL COMPANY

By _____
Superintendent

Copy to Mr. Biggert-

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