

as the hanging rock is of a slaty, seamy nature, liable to wind and break off when exposed to the action of air and moisture.

One of the objections to working out the deposits by the usual method of drifts and winzes, is the closeness to each other that it would be necessary to have these drifts or levels; this being caused by the irregularities in the footwall, and the numerous steps or flat places on which the broken ore would lodge, making it necessary in many cases to handle the ore several times before it finally reached the levels.

With the system in use each or any of these steps may be utilized as a level, along which the ore is conveyed to the plats or bins at the hoisting tracks. About the only serious objectionable feature in the method of working is the difficulty in keeping the skip tracks in place in the bottom of the shafts, these being frequently broken or displaced by the blasting operations, although protected by heavy timbers. But this difficulty is more than counterbalanced by the many advantages of the method, of which the easy handling of the ore after it is broken, is one—this being practically loaded from the blasts into the cars.

The roof of the mine is supported by pillars of ore left standing in suitable places, and also by timbers, but the ground is usually firm and solid and easily held in place, except in places where the strata is cut through by slides or dykes, and at these points heavy ground is always met with. In all other places protection is needed only from the bands of slaty rock that are partially loosened by blasting and exposure to air and water.

The mining work is all done on the contract system—all contracts being renewed at the beginning of each month. By this system, the miners having to pay for all the supplies they use, economy is ensured, and at the same time a fair day's work has to be done every day or the miners feel the effects of it at the end of the month.

The average wage made by miners is from \$40 to \$50 per month, and occasionally \$60 is made—the difference being due to the greater or less skill and ability of the men in their way of working.

Laborers are paid at the rate of \$1.25 per day of eight hours—three shifts being worked in the 24 hours.

There are about 200 hands in all employed in and out of the mine. Of these about 20 are boys employed in ore dressing.

The mine is remarkably free from water; five or six hours pumping per week keeping it dry. The pump used is a Deane, with 6 in. cylinder