

to 50 tons of very rich ore is being shipped daily, though work was only commenced about two years since. A smelter is now being erected for the reduction of the ore from these mines. On the West Coast of Vancouver Island a similar formation exists, and a number of claims are in progress of development on it. All this mining matter, and much more, is fully set forth in the report of the Minister of Mines, to be obtained at my office, Salisbury House.

#### HYDRAULIC MINES.

I have not touched on the hydraulic mines in the Cariboo District, though they are of great importance and are now coming into prominence. In addition to these, there is another form of mining—river dredging. Singularly enough, this has so far not been successful, though the river bottoms are known to be highly auriferous. The cause of this non-success, it is reported, is due to the errors of construction of the dredgers, but I understand it will be remedied during the present year by the adoption of the same kind of dredger as is used so very successfully in New Zealand. On the coast of Vancouver Island considerable deposits of auriferous black sand have been found, and a large number of placer miners commenced to work on these last year, with very good results to themselves.

#### THE MINING OUTLOOK.

The low price of copper is proving prejudicial to the lower grades of copper mines, but with improved appliances, cheapening the charges for reduction, they will be enabled in the near future to be worked profitably. Electricity may eventually effect this, and at the present time a new plan of concentration by the oil process is being tested in London. I am informed it has proved most successful on the ores of the Le Roi and Britannia Groups; the saving effected on the cost is so great as to ensure a profit on the product. You may indeed feel confident that the ingenuity of the mining men will eventually devise plans to minimise charges, so that most of the waste ore bodies will be worked profitably. I have not yet mentioned iron; this mineral the Province possesses in abundance, but it has scarcely been considered yet. An American company, however, has contracted for a large quantity of this ore from the west coast of Vancouver Island and from near Howe Sound, to supply smelters in the State of Washington. All these facts make me feel confident that the mining industry of British Columbia is only just beginning to run; it is in its infancy, but is a very strong and healthy infant,—a Hercules, in fact, that is even now proving that it can strangle the serpent of difficulty.