

been of necessity 15 to 20 per cent. higher than the preceding year, and to mechanics and laborers, from 20 to 25 per cent. more. Materials likewise have been generally more expensive during the past season. The following incidental charges have also tended to increase the amount at the debit of this account:—

Penberthy & Co.'s tribute bargain "skimpings" for 1851-'52,	£338	9	2
Furnace bottoms, taking out, preparation of stuff and shipping charges	200	0	0
Alteration of stamping machinery	69	4	9
Ore-weighing house (new)	13	6	5
New railroads, and strengthening and repairing ore wharf, &c.	93	17	8
New jigging house and jigging machinery, including a thorough repair and renewal of a portion of the old jigging machinery	300	0	0
Total	£1014	18	0

In concluding my Report on this department, I have much pleasure in recording the integrity, zeal, and attention with which Mr. Hodge has, throughout, discharged the responsible duties incumbent on him as Captain of the Mine.

ORE DRESSING.

In the last Annual Report I to some extent pledged myself that we would dress twice as much ore in 1853 as had been dressed in 1852, and also that we would have 500 tons of ore ready for shipment on the 1st of May following. We nearly redeemed both these pledges; for on the 1st of May we had 614 tons of ore ready for shipment, and against 681 tons 3 cwt. of ore in 1852, we have dressed 1,337 tons 5 cwt. of ore last year.

The following is a Statement of the ore dressed from December 15, 1852, to December 15, 1853:—

	Tons.	cwt.	qr.	lbs.	Swansea "dry."
Dressed from mine stuff	761	17	3	3	say 14½ per cent.
" from halvans and poor ores	60	16	2	3	15½ "
" stampings and slimes	50	5	1	19	11 "
" from skimpings	464	8	0	14	11 "
Quantity of ore dressed	1337	5	3	11	