

that of "Iron Pyrites," which ore is one of rapidly increasing consumption, being used for the manufacture of sulphuric acid. To give an instance of the increase in the demand for this mineral, I may say that according to the statistical reports of the United States of America, the consumption in that country has risen from 8,000 tons in 1881, to 181,000 tons in 1889, and for 1892 it is calculated that 350,000 tons will be consumed.

A discovery of a very pure quality of pyrites ore was made in the colony a few years since, which is now being actively worked by an English company called the Pyrites Company, Limited, and it is to the courtesy of the Directors of that Company that I am indebted for the statistical information with regard to their property that I purpose giving you.

From the reports of this mine by Dr. R. W. Ellis, of the Government Geological Survey of Canada, and by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, of London, dated October and July, 1890, respectively, I take the following extracts:—Dr. Ellis says—"The assays of minerals show it to be almost absolutely pure iron pyrites, the percentage of 'earthly matter being only the half of one per cent., with sulphur 52 per cent., and iron 46.80 per cent.'" A comparison with pure sulphide of iron (*i.e.*, iron 46.70 per cent., sulphur 52.30 per cent.) shows practically no difference. Messrs. John Taylor and Sons report as follows:—"The lode which is being worked is a strong and masterly 'one. . . It is composed of a solid mass of iron pyrites, varying in width from 50 feet at surface, to 68 feet wide at the No. 1 level, and 'at No. 2 to a discovered width of 100 feet.'"

Each of these reports gives the measured ore in sight at the date of the examination at about half-a-million tons, with a probability of many millions of tons yet undeveloped.

I may also mention that in the pyrites mines of the United States of America, the greatest amount of sulphur contained in the ore is 46 per cent., compared with 52 per cent. of the Newfoundland mine.

This mine is situated in an excellent harbour, close to the water's edge; vessels of any size can come alongside the Company's wharf, and be loaded at the rate of 1,000 tons a day. It is 250 miles north of St. John's, and the navigation is free from ice from May to December. The product of the mine was 7,000 tons in 1889, 16,000 tons in 1890, 30,000 tons in 1891, and the estimated production for this year is from 50,000 to 60,000 tons.

The next in importance of the minerals being worked at present is Asbestos, of which there is a profitable mine in operation in St. George's Bay, on the west coast of the colony. The owner of this property is the Hon. Robert Bond, the present Colonial Secretary of the colony, who has informed me that the quality of the asbestos is unsurpassed by any in North America, being of exceptional length of staple. This mine is being worked by an American Company, on lease from Mr. Bond.