

percentage of sulphur which necessitates a roasting process before it is sent to the smelter. As a consequence the demand for these ores has of late years largely fallen off. The same association of sulphur is found in some of the deposits along the Kingston and Pembroke Railway, and seriously impairs their value as smelting ores, so that the hopes which were raised in regard to their speedy utilization by the building of the Hamilton smelter have not yet been realized. All the ores in this district are not, however, affected in this way, and there are some large deposits of excellent quality ; but on the other hand these are sometimes so far removed from convenient shipment that the price obtainable will not repay the cost of hauling to railway and the subsequent freight to the smelter. It can be easily seen therefore, that though there may be a very large amount of raw material available, this is not always in such a shape as to yield profitable returns. This condition of affairs is unfortunate, and many persons unacquainted with the actual conditions, often wonder why mining is not pursued with greater vigour in certain directions. Investors of small capital, however, generally wish to see some chance of realizing on their investments when once mining operations are commenced, unless as is sometimes unfortunately the case, such investments are made on a limited scale with simply a view to speculation. Such schemes cannot, however, be classed under the head of legitimate mining, and the last investor generally has the experience obtained as his share of the profits.

Improvements are constantly being made in the process of iron smelting, and therefore we may hope that with greater facilities for shipment and reduced expenses in smelting, the greater part of these ores will some day become valuable assets. At present the great barrier to the successful development of the blast furnace industry in this district, is the cost of fuel, and it is to be hoped that some day in the not too distant future, the successful manufacture of compressed peat will go far to solve this difficulty. Smelting with peat fuel has been carried on successfully for many years in Norway and Sweden and also in