The Tyee continues to be the only mine in the Mount Sicker district, Vancouver Island, at which important development work is in progress. From the time, in 1902, the shipment of ore was commenced, up to the present, about 150,000 tons of ore have been sent to the Tyee Copper Co.'s smelter at Ladysmith. The metal contents of this quantity of ore were, approximately, 13,700,000 lb. of copper, 427,400 oz. of silver, and 22,000 oz. of gold. The main shaft in this mine is now down between 1,100 and 1,200 ft. When the latter depth shall be reached levels will be opened simultaneously at both 1,100 and 1,200 ft. Indications for the discovery at depth of permanent ore bodies are considered good, a body of low-grade barytic copper ore having been encountered at the 1,000-ft. level, and the formation thence down being favourable to the deposition of ore. To the west of the Tyee shaft, on the X. L. claim, also owned by the Tyee Copper Co., a shaft is being sunk to a depth of between 500 and 600 ft. Owing to the fall of hill this depth will be about equivalent to the 1,000-ft. level in the Tyee. Indications here are stated to be excellent, pointing to the close proximity of ore.

The Toronto, Ontario, special correspondent of the *Mining and Scientific Press*, on June 15, wrote: "In the House of Commons at Ottawa on June 12, Dr. Thompson, representative of the Yukon Territory, presented the claims of his constituents for a greater measure of self-government. He said he had the authority of experienced mining men for the opinion that more gold would be produced in the future than in the past. There were miles of auriferous gravel which capital would develop. Capital was coming in. The Guggenheim people were spending $2,000,000 on hydraulic and other machinery, and English capitalists were building a railway from Dawson into the gold district. In the southern part of the district, a quartz camp was being established. The Government should help in the way of securing water, an aqueduct was required to bring water to the gold-bearing deposits and provide means for their being worked. He presented figures to show that this would be a paying proposition." In this connection it may be mentioned that the Dominion Government is giving the question of water supply its attention; that the Klondike Water Supply Co. has been incorporated with the object of establishing a system for the supply of water for hydraulicking purposes on several creeks in the Dawson district, and that early in July the first passenger train will be run to Grand Forks.

It is to be hoped that the iron ore resources of British Columbia, as well as those of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, will be investigated under the direction of the Dominion superintendent of mines, when the official investigation, brief particulars of which are printed on another page, shall take place. The provincial bureau of mines some time since published an illustrated pamphlet which contained much valuable information relative to occurrences of iron ore in this Province, gathered chiefly by Mr. Herbert Carmichael, provincial assayer and assistant to the provincial mineralogist. In view, however, of the increased attention now being given to the utilisation of the iron ores of Canada it is particularly desirable that British Columbia shall share in the benefits expected from the wide dissemination of official information on this important subject. The Dominion Government is already doing British Columbia excellent service in the prominence being given under its auspices to the mineral resources of the Province, notably in connection with its zinc ores and the geological and topographical conditions of the Rossland mining district, yet, this notwithstanding, it is permissable to urge that the Province be permitted to share in the general advantage that may be expected to result from the extensive distribution of a report by experts on the iron ore resources of Canada, which report would of necessity be incomplete were those of British Columbia not taken full cognizance of. Further, the probability of there soon being iron furnaces established at some suitable point or points on the northern Pacific coast makes it all the more important that additional official information concerning British Columbia iron ores shall be available as soon as shall be practicable.

COAL IN THE WEST.

MOST Canadians are aware that we have in this Dominion supplies of coal, to express the amount of which our language falls lamentably short. "Enormous," "tremendous"—such words as these only feebly express the tonnage of lignite lying beneath the thousands of square miles in the western provinces. Unlimited is perhaps the correct word, for the supply is certainly "unlimited" for many hundreds of years. A billion, to the ordinary person, is little more than a figure of speech, but the tons of coal in Alberta alone are probably represented by hundreds of billions.

Though the presence of this coal is well known, and has been known for some time, the fact that it is only "lignite" has been sufficient to induce most people to believe that its economic use is comparatively small.

An invention has, however, been patented which has all the possibilities of rendering this lignite quite as useful as hard Welsh anthracite. This invention, known as a gas producer, has been put to very severe tests, and has proved that coal similar to our western lignite can be made to produce, by its aid, an amount of power equal to that produced in the ordinary way by best Welsh.

Mr. D. B. Dowling, of the Geological Survey of Canada, lately read, before the Mining Institute, a paper in which he gave some remarkable figures. These show that in an ordinary steam plant the amount of coal (similar to that found at Medicine Hat) required to produce one horse-power per hour is 6 lb., whereas in the gas producer a similar result if obtained from less than 2½ lb. This test was made on what is known as "wet" coal, but if the coal be dry, the vari-