

has yielded many fine specimens of the *pure* mineral.

Since the date at which Sir William Logan's remarks were penned, a species of revolution has taken place in the business of producing plumbago for the market. Formerly, the prevailing impression was, that the mineral was marketable only when obtained from the rocks in a state approaching absolute purity; but the irregularity of the deposits of such a nature, not only in Canada, but wherever they have been worked, precludes the possibility, in most cases, of calculating with any degree of certainty upon an adequate supply from this source. Furthermore, the graphite, as it occurs in nature, even in the purest form, invariably contains a certain proportion of foreign matters, such as lime and iron; which, for the most important purpose for which it is used,—namely, the manufacture of crucibles,—renders the previous extraction of these deleterious ingredients absolutely necessary. Recently, processes have been introduced, whereby, in a simple and inexpensive manner, the plumbago may be separated in a state of *absolute purity* from rocks impregnated with it.

The employment of these processes of manufacture, which consist chiefly in crushing and washing the rocks, after the manner of an ore, have established the business on a comparatively permanent, sure and satisfactory basis of calculation. The estimates of the costs and profits,* contained in the accompanying printed reports, although prepared specially with

* See these estimates, at the end of this Report.