



BENCH.

The bench gang consisted of a foreman, 8 drillers, 10 muckers and a "nipper"; and its work was to excavate the material remaining in the section (11.07 cu. yds. per lin. ft.), to place the plumb posts, and to lag and pack behind them.

After a bench blast, the whole gang was put at work cleaning off the rails of the scaffold car track, and pushing this up as way was made for it, it being always run back for safety before a blast. When the scaffold car was brought far enough ahead to communicate with the heading, the drillers cleared off places for their new set of holes, and went to work on them. The bench was shot down in four foot holds, two half-depth blasts being made for each hold; each blast consisted of four holes, two being centre holes and two drilled as nearly vertically under the inside edge of the wall-plate as possible; the charges were 10