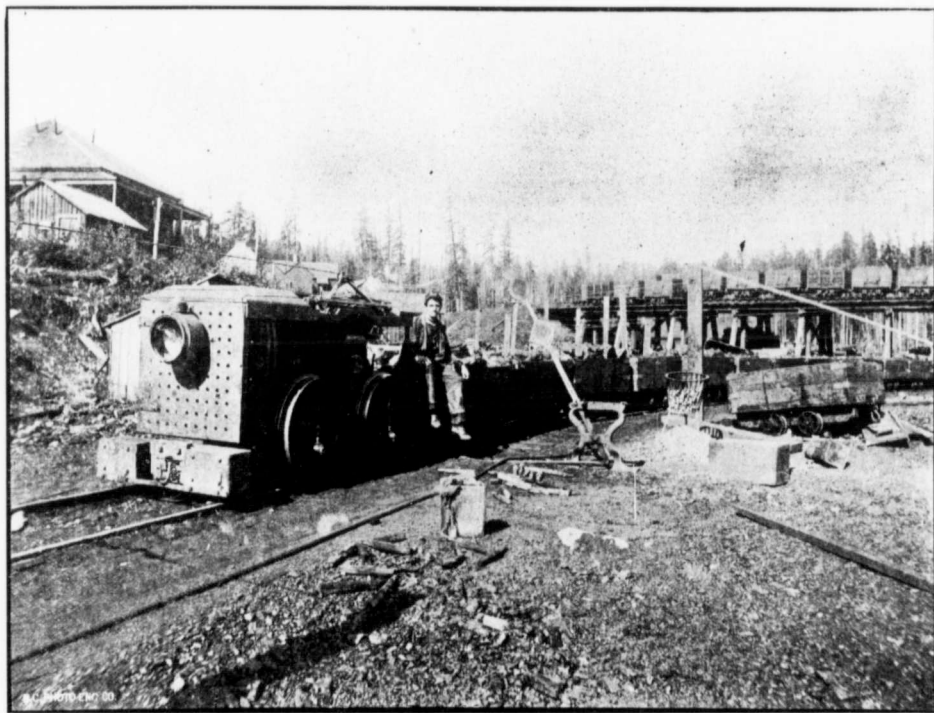


1899, but owing to the difficulty of saving the particles but little was accomplished during that year. In the spring of 1900 Messrs. Sutton and Graham made a contract to work the sands on the basis of a royalty. They constructed a long, expensive flume, and after commencing work in a systematic manner found that the sand carried much more gold than had been apparent from the prospecting done previously. The area of beach comprises some ten or twelve claims, and at the rate of working during last year considerable time will be consumed before the ground is all worked out. Several years ago it was known that gold occurred in black sand on the beach near Cape Scott, at the extreme northwestern end of the island, but several attempts had been unsuccessful in saving it on a commercial scale, because of its flakey character and the heaviness of the

that portion of the district is not sufficiently easy of access to warrant the performance of extensive work. The claims are all held by prospectors, who can ill afford to do more than their yearly assessment work.

The occurrence of this class of ore when considered in connection with the fact that on Elk river, at the head of Kennedy lake, auriferous quartz has also been found, is significant. If a straight line be drawn from the gold-bearing zone on Mineral Hill, in the Alberni Mining Division, following the line of strike of the formation about N. 60 degrees W. mag., it will intersect that portion of the Elk river in the vicinity of the Rose Marie group of mineral claims, and if continued in the same direction will also intersect the gold zone on Bear creek. The strong probabilities are though that the sulphide ores of West Coast Mining Division will, in



TRAIN OF COAL CARS, EXTENSION COLLIERY.

sand. Consequently when the Wreck Bay diggings were first discovered but little attention was paid to them. However, since the successful work of last and this summer there is a strong probability that all the beaches along the coasts of Vancouver Island, and possibly Queen Charlotte Islands, will be thoroughly prospected. No other placer mining of sufficient importance to mention has been done for years in the West Coast Mining Division, but at one time Bear river, which empties into Bedwell sound, was the scene of active placer mining. Because of this fact a good deal of prospecting for gold-bearing quartz veins has been done near the head of this river. This has not all been wasted because several mining claims have been located on which the outcroppings are quite promising, and some assay very high values in gold. But at the present time

the near future, prove to be the most important of the mineral resources.

In connection with the occurrences of chalcopyrite ore in this portion of the island it is noticeable that nearly all the outcroppings are of magnetite, having particles and masses of almost theoretically pure chalcopyrite disseminated through the ore. Outcroppings of pyrrhotite are comparatively scarce, while ordinary gossan is hardly ever found. This last fact is probably accounted for by the extreme shallow zone of oxidation. Erosion has been so general and active that nearly every evidence of oxidation has disappeared and unaltered pyrites are encountered on the present surface of the ground.

This condition is not confined to one portion of the island but is general throughout. During the past two