

ber, 1889, many remarks of this character and as to the desirability of placing these mines on some more desirable basis for future successful operations were expressed. In particular the bad management of the dumping grounds was commented on. The removal of these, however, should not, if properly undertaken, be attended with any serious loss, and might even possibly be conducted with profit. It is well known that in the early years of the industry the separation of the smaller veins was not closely attended to. Large veins were plenty, and cheap and speedy extraction was a necessity, consequently much very fine fibre went into the lower part of these unsightly heaps of what is regarded as refuse. In fact, even in the newest portions of these dumps veins of asbestos ranging from half to three-quarters of an inch can be frequently seen, all of which should repay extraction if suitable machinery were employed. While in the present condition of most of the pits, veins of asbestos of large size, ranging from one to three or more inches, are common, the uncertain nature of the mineral is such that in view of the investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars at which many of these properties are now held, when any are placed in the market, the great desirability of testing the rocks at lower levels by some cheap but satisfactory method should be apparent to all interested, and not only so but on the part of an investor is almost a necessity. To the company investing many thousands of dollars in an asbestos property to-day, the chances of successful working, or of getting back their own with profit, depend very largely upon the continuation downward for a considerable depth of profitable veins; for while in the case of a property acquired at Government rates at \$1 per acre, the capital upon which dividends must be paid is very small, the case is very greatly reversed when a price of \$1,000 to \$3,000 per acre is demanded, and the cost of a plant sufficient to put such a property on a satisfactory working basis is added. This means a very different method of conducting mining opera-