



OVERHEAD STEAM CRANES.—(See page 385.)

Generally speaking, it may be assumed that the coal-working at Kelung is little more than a scratching of the surface, and that the real coal-beds may be considered to be practically untouched. The Chinese Government rather put drawbacks in the way of these mines than offer facilities for their working. The owner of land which contains coal is not permitted to open a mine without previously obtaining the sanction of the authorities, which involves great delay and expense, and is after all usually refused. As to the introduction of machinery for the better working of the mines, the proprietors have

not sufficient capital to purchase such machinery, nor do they wish to do so. Supposing, however, that they were both able and willing, it is stated that such an innovation, accompanied as it would be by the employment of foreigners, would be the immediate signal for the closing of the mines by the Mandarin, and the not improbable loss of the proprietor's head. The quality of this coal has been favourably reported upon by competent engineers, and it is stated, in fact, on good authority that for household purposes Kelung coal has no superior