

The estimate for this work depends very much on what items may be considered as fairly chargeable against it, and there are various opinions on this point. Up to the day of their going out of office the former Directors could never give any information as to what the getting out of ore cost, as they did not know themselves, and it was under the present management that this point was first ascertained. In the Quarterly Report laid before the Stockholders in November, 1852, the following statement on this subject occurs, and subsequent experience has proved it to be entirely correct. It is based on the view, that every item of the Company's expenditure should be placed to the cost of the ore :—

“ From various experiments made in the most careful manner during the past season, by Mr. Borron, the exact cost of getting out ore has been ascertained.

It is as follows—

Cost of opening ground by shafts and levels, supposing only one half of the ground thus opened to be worth working, per fathom,.....	£3 10 0
Drawing by horse power,.....	0 10 0
Mining, including timber work,.....	6 10 0
Labouring ore to surface, 12 tons,.....	0 15 0
Spalling, picking, and preparing for crusher,.....	1 0 0
Tramming to crusher,.....	0 8 0
Crushing and dressing, including expense of Engine and wear and tear of machinery,.....	2 10 0
Wages of men, say, Mining Captain, Carpenter, Blacksmith, Watchman, &c.,.....	1 0 0
Materials, say ropes, iron, nails, lumber, &c.,.....	1 7 0
Management, direction, &c., &c.,.....	1 0 0
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Total cost per fathom, cy.,....	£18 10 0
Or for ground already laid open,.....	15 0 0
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Medium cost,.....	16 15 0

The average yield of the ground opened at the Mine since it commenced, if the Mining Reports are to be believed, has exceeded three tons to the fathom, but in order to be sure let it be taken at $2\frac{3}{4}$ tons, which is a moderate estimate.

Cost of a fathom as above,.....	£16 15 0
$2\frac{3}{4}$ tons at £5 stg., as in prospectus, stg., £13 15 0, cy.	16 16 0
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Ore costs less than stated in prospectus, per fathom, 0 1 0
or about $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per ton.

It appears, therefore, that, to be exact, the Directors should have said the cost of getting out the ore was £4 19 $7\frac{1}{4}$ d stg., per ton, in place of £5; but as they used the word *about* in connection with it,