

SOUTH KOOTENAY'S PROGRESS.

"When the mines of Cripple Creek district reached the point where the production footed a million dollars per year, all the world heard about it," said C. D. Rand in Spokane recently. "I remember that there was a monster celebration in the camp, and a banquet to which the big men of the country were invited. It was a proper celebration of a notable event. But we haven't heard much about the fact that the exports of minerals from southern Kootenay for 1897 went considerably over \$1,000,000. I came across the item in a West Kootenay newspaper, where it appeared in an inconspicuous position and was treated largely as a matter of course. It is the biggest record that has ever been made, and it's a story that is worth the telling.

"Do you know there are but three states in the union that passed this record of south Kootenay during 1897. The average production of all metals in Montana was \$3,352,291 per month. Colorado averaged \$2,914,735, and California averaged \$1,569,235. Southern Kootenay had exported up to January 25 a total of \$1,193,458. This puts the district fourth in the list of producers on this continent with an excellent chance of winning a higher place.

As compared with January, 1897, the exports of south Kootenay show a gain of \$517,952, or close upon 100 per cent.

THE MORNING GLORY'S TROUBLES.

A contemporary states as to this Vernon free-milling gold mine, that three meetings have not been enough to straighten out its affairs, and there is to be a fourth. The liabilities of the company are put down at \$4,340. It was stated at the last meeting, that since the company started there had been spent in Vernon, for supplies and wages, the sum of \$1,980. The president, Mr. A. E. Morden, urged that a sufficient amount of money should be raised locally among the shareholders to satisfy the creditors and conduct the business until a fair test was made under new management. Messrs. Pound and McIlvanie, as members of the committee appointed at the last meeting to endeavor to form a syndicate, reported that as yet their efforts had not met with success, but they thought that something might still be done, as all the shareholders seemed decidedly adverse to accepting the proposal of the Portage la Prairie people, and all seemed anxious to have the mill started again as soon as possible. Inquiry was made by Mr. Cryderman as to what had become of the proceeds of the gold bricks. Mr. A. E. Morden replied that he had received \$80 on one and \$150 on another; the balance would not be paid until returns were received from the mint.

Most of the money had been paid on his account against the company. The opinion was expressed that as the Mordens had agreed to relinquish the management and donate 50,000 shares to the treasury, a local company might be formed to raise enough money on the security of the mine and plant to pay 50 per cent. on account to the creditors, and operate the mill until it was found what the rock was worth. It was decided to adjourn to allow the committee to make a report.

THE STATIST IMPEACHED.

The Hon. Mr. Turner stated this week, in the course of the debate upon the speech from the throne, that the London (England) Statist could not be regarded as the high-class financial paper which Mr. J. B. Kennedy, M. P. P., believed it to be. Premier Turner went further, and asserted that when applications for the Provincial loan were about to be requested in London, the Statist offered, in return for an advertisement with £100, to speak favorably of the loan, but on failing to get the advertisement solicited, had nothing to say in endorsement of the Province's financial proposal, and, indeed, did its best to hinder it. The Statist has long enjoyed an exceptionally good reputation as a candid critic of matters financial, and unwilling to be biased by advertising or other monetary considerations.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES.

The executive committee of the Chamber is already busily at work. Dr. Selwyn, F. R. S., has been appointed President, and Messrs. W. A. Carlyle and Henry Abbott vice-presidents. The secretary-treasurer will be appointed later, but the bank of British Columbia will be the bankers of the Chamber, Messrs. Stein and Meikle auditors, and Mr. O. Plunkett solicitor. A subcommittee, consisting of Messrs. Hamersley, Bennett and Taggart, has been appointed to prepare the necessary papers for incorporating the Chamber, and Dr. Selwyn and Messrs. Bonthron and Pellet-Harvey have been nominated a committee, the scope of which will be the mapping out of the Chamber's line of action.

THE ROSEBERY SAMPLER.

Tenders are asked for the erection of the sampler at Rosebery, and it is hoped to start work about March 15th. The plans for the ore sample show that the building is to be modern in all essentials. A wharf will be built on the lake to handle ores from all points, and C. P. R. tracks will be built on each side of the structure. The sampler should prove an invaluable adjunct of the busy mine district of which Rosebery bids fair to become an increasingly important center.