

## FAST STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

The *Canadian Gazette* publishes an interview with Lord Brassey, formerly a civil Lord of the Admiralty, in which he is quoted as saying: "The leading men in Canada are exceedingly anxious that a fast mail service should be established, with reference to Imperial Federation, for if the time comes when Canada should contribute to the Imperial fleet, it must be by an adequate representation.

"In regard to foreign affairs," Lord Brassey continued, "perhaps a council of advice for the Empire, resembling the United States committee on foreign affairs might be satisfactory. But Canada is not really threatened, directly, in any way by external foes. In the United States she has a neighbor so powerful that war with the latter would be so obviously unequal as to be hardly conceivable.

"I regret that the Imperial army was removed from all Canadian points except Halifax. The few regiments kept there could always have been ready for service in any part of the world, and the presence of troops had a moral and unifying effect. A reformed House of Lords should certainly have Colonial representation in proportion to the population of the colonies."

Finally in the interview, Lord Brassey favors General Booth's scheme of emigration to the colonies, and speaks favorably of the colonies for homeless boys and girls, established by Dr. Barnardo in Manitoba. Lord Brassey, however, does not think that an Imperial tariff is feasible.

## STATISTICS FOR 1894.

The following are some of the annual statistics for the city of Victoria: Inland revenue, \$145,257; imports, dutiable, \$1,218,186; free, \$698,667; exports, produce of Canada, \$2,784,975; not produce of Canada, \$189,215;

collections, duty, \$589,920.51; other revenue, \$18,067.08; births, 345; marriages, 204; deaths, 225. The duties collected for 1893 at Victoria amounted to \$788,676, whilst for the year 1894 they were \$789,920, a falling off of \$198,756.

During the year the New Vancouver Coal company's output was 393,772 tons; that of Wellington, 366,765, and of Union, 221,700, a total of 982,237. The foreign shipments were: N. V. C. Co., 289,081 tons; Wellington, 240,049 tons; Union, 203,698 tons, a total of 741,675. Customs returns for Nanaimo are: Duty collected, \$60,105.56; imports dutiable, \$187,037; imports free, \$10,074; exports coal, \$2,799,905.00; exports miscellaneous, \$9,431. The exports to the United States totalled up to \$2,019,653. The receipts of the Nanaimo branch of the Inland revenue department amount to \$12,490.77, made up as follows: Excise duty on spirits, \$3,383.28; malt, \$6,952.71; cigars, \$2,154.75. Nearly \$90,000 worth of buildings were put up in Nanaimo in 1894.

The Westminster statistics for 1894 are: Fires, 28; loss \$60,310; insurance, one-third; births, 193; deaths, 173; marriages, 85; postal revenue, \$9,961.57; salmon pack, 130,735 cases; inland revenue, \$4,542.76; imports dutiable, \$394,146; free, \$137,557; duty collected, \$125,552.58; exports, \$1,848,689.

The Inland Revenue returns at the port of Vancouver for 1894 were \$94,980, a decrease of \$1,491.40, over the previous year.

Seven companies in the Black Hills are said to have distributed \$7,909,000 in dividends.

A project, which is said to be backed by the C. P. R., is afoot to build a smelter at Nakusp.

A pioneer miner at Swauk, Wash., has taken \$20,000 out of his claim in 18 years and it is not half worked out yet.

## COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

The concentrator at Three Forks is almost ready to run.

Some Kaslo gold sent to San Francisco was found to be worth \$17 an ounce.

Ore is coming to Three Forks from the Slocan Star at the rate of 30 tons a day.

Joseph Cavanagh has been elected president of the Ottawa Board of Trade.

An illicit whiskey still has been found near Deloraine, Man., and five persons arrested.

The difficulty about the Nickle Plate mine on Trail creek has been settled and the mine will probably be worked.

On the Kaslo slope of the Slocan there is snow enough for full loads when raw-hiding. It is not so on the western slope.

Whitney & Moore, of Bessemer City, N. C., are on the lookout for mica properties as they have a contract for 10,000 pounds of it.

It is stated that the richness of the placer diggings in Kaslo creek have been much exaggerated and were got up to bring that struggling town again into prominence.

During the week ending December 15th, 200 tons of ore were shipped from the Slocan Star to Omaha, valued at \$2,000. This is expected to be the weekly rate of shipment.

Bellville, on Kaslo creek, has a telegraph office, and a post office is to be established soon. Several good silver claims are near and Noble Five ore is being raw-hided to this point.

Two carloads of copper ore have been shipped from the Silver Bow mine, near Illecillewaet, to Chicago. The ore weighed 34,066 pounds, and yielded 9,636 oz. gold, 114,097 oz. silver, and 7,560 pounds copper, equal to 25.8 per cent. The shipment paid handsomely and the mine will probably be operated next summer. Mr. A. H. Holdich, of Revelstoke, advocates the erection of a smelter there.