

ROSSLAND.

The customs returns from Rossland for December show a gratifying increase. The mine exports were:

	Value.
Ore, 8,045 tons . . . . .	\$225,269
Matte, 699,037 lbs. . . . .	191,121
Total . . . . .	\$416,390

The total exports of the year were \$3,929,549, a monthly average of \$327,479. The total imports were \$779,304, a monthly average of \$64,942. There has been a most marked increase during the last six months. The imports from July to December were \$436,222 as compared with \$343,082 from January to June. The increase of exports in the last six months of the year are still greater, the total from July to December being \$2,399,309 as compared with \$1,530,240 from January to June.

Our Rossland correspondent telegraphs: "Official figures show that the total quantity of ore from Trail Creek mines during 1899 amounted to 180,300 tons, valued at \$3,211,400, yielding 101,500 ounces of gold; 272,300 ounces of silver; 7,783,000 pounds of copper, valued at \$1,114,400. Le Roi produced 92,250 tons, valued at \$1,250,000; War Eagle, 63,500 tons, valued at \$1,143,000; Centre Star, 26,700 tons, valued at \$221,275; Iron Mask, 5,378 tons, valued at \$70,268.81. The balance is made up by miscellaneous shipments. Much uneasiness prevails with regard to the likelihood of labour troubles as a result of the eight-hour law. Meanwhile supporters of the eight-hour law have forwarded a counter petition protesting against its repeal. It is believed here that the Government will investigate as to the result of the operations of the law before taking any decided action. The ore shipments for January are estimated at 24,000 tons."

The following figures may be regarded as official and refer to the condition of the principal mining properties throughout Trail Creek division up to December 31st, 1899:—

Le Roi Mine—Tons of ore shipped, 92,500; gross value, \$1,250,000.

Columbia and Kootenay—tons of ore shipped, 92,500; gross value, \$125,000.

Columbia and Kootenay—Tons of ore shipped, 110; gross value, \$1,600. Number of feet of development work done—driving, 4.30; sinking, 750; cost, \$5,050; average number of men employed, 40.

Nickel Plate—Number of feet of development work done—driving, 1,930; sinking 440; average number of men employed, 25.

Great Western—Number of feet of development work done—driving, 300; sinking, 200; average number of men employed, 20.

Josie—Number of feet of development work done—drifting, 650; raising and sinking, 480; total, 1,130 feet; average number of men employed, 20.

Number 1—Number of feet of development work done—drifting, 1,900 raising and sinking, 430; total, 2,330 feet; average number of men employed, 35.

War Eagle—Number of tons of ore shipped, 63,500; gross value, \$1,143,000; average number of men employed, 250.

Centre Star—Number of tons of ore shipped, 16,700; gross value, \$225,450; average number of men employed, 75.

Iron Mask—Amount of development work done during 1899, 2,852 feet, number of tons of ore shipped, 5,378; gross value, \$70,268.81; average number of men employed, 40.

New St. Elmo—Amount of development work, including cross-cutting and drifting, 296 feet; average number of men employed, 8.

Montreal Gold Fields. Gertrude—Building improvements (1899) \$1,235; plant and machinery (1899) \$2,145; prospecting, etc., \$190; total, \$3,570. Shafting, cost, \$4,200, cross-cutting, etc., \$5,820; drifting, \$544; total cost, \$14,134.

Coxey—Surface prospecting, etc., cost, \$250; shafting, \$1,260; winze, \$1,040; cross-cutting, 945; timbering, \$175; stoping ore, \$2,660; No. 2 tunnel, cross-cutting off No. 2, \$1,840; roads and trails, \$50; total, \$8,295.

California—Work was resumed on this property September 5, 1899, since which time the following amount of work has been done: Drifting, 78 feet; wagon road, 1,000 feet; building improvements at a cost of \$4,300; average number of men employed, 5.

Jumbo Gold Mining Co.—Tunnelling during 1899, 500 feet; average number of men employed, 5; no ore has been shipped.

Vechet Mines, Sophie Mountain—Drifting done in 1899, 564 feet; cross-cutting, 460 feet; sinking, 55 feet; raising, 75 feet; total 1,154 feet. Average number of men employed, 25; no ore shipped during 1899.

Portland, Sophie Mountain—Drifting in 1899, 250 feet; sinking, 147 feet; total, 397 feet. Average number of men employed, 12. No ore shipped.

Iron Colt.—Work done during 1899, 30 feet. Average number of men employed, 20. Total amount of work done to date, 1,400 feet. No ore has been shipped.

Big Four and Double Fraction.—Drifting 32 feet, \$500; stoping vein on surface, \$200; total, \$700.

Homestake Mine—Sinking done in 1899, 110 feet; drifting, 630 feet; cross-cutting, 830 feet; upraising, 25 feet; total, 1,595 feet. Average number of men employed, 19.

Canadian Gold Fields, Limited. Sunset No. 2—Shafting, 235 feet; cross-cutting, 1,175 feet. Average number of men employed, 22. No ore was shipped during the year.

Curlew—Shafting done during 1899, three feet.

Parrot Fraction—Shafting, 28 feet.

Black Eye—No work was done during 1899.

The ore shipments for the first 24 days of January have reached about 18,000 tons.

The winter continues to be an open one with prevailing westerly winds.

A counter petition against the repeal of the eight-hour law has been circulated in Rossland and is said to have received a large number of signatures. Much anxiety is felt with regard to the future relations between mine owners and miners. It is believed that the Government will fully investigate the whole subject before taking action either way.

SLOCAN.

During the past year 25,700,224 pounds of ore from Slocan mines was transported over the Kaslo & Slocan railway to American smelters—a decrease of nearly 8,500 tons in production as compared with the 1898 returns. The exports of ore cleared at Kaslo also decreased in value to \$14,274.68. This deplorable falling off is undoubtedly alone ascribable to the operation of the eight-hour law and consequent labour troubles. The exports of ore cleared at the port of Kaslo for each month in 1899 were as follows:

Month.	Pounds.	Value.
January . . . . .	5,916,506	\$2,688 23
February . . . . .	5,431,315	2,631 68