

AN INTERNATIONAL STRIKE.

The representative miners of Great Britain are now sitting in convention, and, according to the *Agenda*, among the most important questions to be discussed are those affecting the hours of labor and the proposal to organize an international strike, in the event of an eight hour arrangement not being arrived at. This is really a most important consideration. The idea of paralyzing not only the entire colliery interest of the world but of almost every other interest—social and industrial—is a stupendous one and would involve a conflict such as has never previously been broached. Without steam, industrial operations must be suspended, and without coal there cannot possibly be any steam. The suggestion is almost too immense a one to be seriously contemplated; but, its mere announcement demonstrates the grim earnestness of the men who toil underground.

A RICH INHERITANCE.

West Kootenay is rapidly forging ahead in mining development, and competent authorities do not hesitate to give it as their opinion that this now famous district is destined to become the richest mineral region on the American continent.

From the international boundary, in a northwesterly direction, a great mineral belt extends for hundreds of miles, from five to ten miles wide, on the western slope of the Western Selkirk range.

In this great belt are the Goat River, Toad Mountain, Blue Bell, Hot Springs, Kaslo, Slocan, Lardeau, Trout Lake, Fish Creek and Illecillewaet mining camps. Considerable capital is being invested in many of these camps, and the large ore bodies being developed is something fabulous. A rough estimate gives the number of people located in the district at about 3,000, and the indications now are that before the end of the year, the number will have been increased to at least 15,000. This prophecy is supported by reason. The recent discoveries of rich, extensive and numerous leads in the Slocan country has excited the interest of miners in all directions across the border, and, such being the case, it will not be surprising to hear before many months elapse, that a mineral stampede rivaling the old time placer excitement of the '60's, is being made for the Kootenay.

An 80-ton smelter will be ready for operation in the Kootenay region by the middle of July. The opening of this new industry will infuse new life into mining development, and will afford a ready market for ore products. One great drawback has been lack of reasonable rates and rail communication with the outside world. In fact, on this account the mining industry has been handicapped. This, for eight months of the year during open navigation, was, to a large measure, overcome by the construction of a 28-mile railway connecting the navigable waters of Kootenay Lake with those of the Columbia River. But, the other four months, the Kootenay Lake mining camps are practically cut off from communication with outside points, the only means available for the travelling public or mails being on the

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

IMPORTS.

The following is a summary of the quantity, value and duty on imports at the port of Victoria for the month of December, 1891:

ARTICLES.	QUAN.	VALUE.	DUTY.
Acids		\$ 16	\$ 3 48
Agricultural im- plements		161	65 85
Alc. beer & port wls	11,993	6,917	2,496 18
Animals		5,008	1,437 20
Books, pamphls, etc.		2,183	471 67
Brass & manufs of		782	210 40
Breadstuffs, etc., viz			
Grain, of all kinds			
Flour, brls. bush	1,698	1,031	161 30
Meal, "	983	4,763	751 14
Rice and all other breadstuffs	321	973	163 85
Candles, lbs.	5,999	573	144 45
Chicory, lbs.	2,210	86	89 60
Coal and coke, tons	851,610	560	137 15
Coffee, from U.S. lbs.	3,238	651	65 60
Copper and m's of		104	33 00
Cordage all kinds.		418	95 17
Cotton, manufs of		3,873	1,161 08
Drugs and medicines		25,531	9,474 26
Earthen, stone and Chinaware		1,020	310 30
Fancy goods		2,697	919 45
Fish		2,411	562 17
Fruit, dried		3,991	1,269 12
Green		5,585	1,061 59
Furs		141	36 00
Glass, glassware		2,814	836 90
Gunpowd. exp sub's		1,374	477 75
Hats, caps, bonnets.		948	281 40
Hops, lbs.	30	5	1 80
Iron and steel m's of Jewelry and watches and m's of gold and silver		22,369	6,778 91
Lead and manufs of		530	125 96
Leather and m's of		15	4 50
Marble and stone and manufs of		3,291	815 15
Malt, bush		176	119 60
Metals, composition and m's of	280	236	42 00
Musical instruments		339	280 13
Oils, coal and kero sene, pls.		1,335	470 89
All other, gals.	16,600	3,715	1,195 20
Paints and colors	2,538	1,189	277 85
Paper and m's of		917	280 50
Perfumery		2,393	806 91
Provisions		117	35 10
Bacon hams, etc.		3,957	1,072 01
Salt, not from Great Britain or British possessions, or for fisheries, lbs.	119,216	519	89 15
Seeds		350	36 65
Silk, manufs of		3,839	1,147 40
Soap of all kinds		352	107 58
Spices of all kinds.		102	28 75
Starch, lbs.	2,827	69	56 98

ARTICLES.	QUAN.	VALUE.	DUTY.
Spirits, Of all kinds, gals.	6,811	10,618	11,533 74
Wine, other than Sparkling, gals.	2,819	1,010	2,377 58
Winesparkling doz	206	1,726	897 30
Sugar above No 11 lbs	41,365	1,681	355 03
Notab'vo No 11 lbs Sugar, syrups, cane juice, etc., lbs			
Molasses			
Tea, from U.S. lbs	624	277	27 70
Tobacco and cigars	3,620	1,843	1,978 43
Wood and m's of		4,821	1,557 75
Woolen m's of		4,296	1,474 12
All other dutiable articles		36,356	9,145 02
Total dutiable goods		\$208,295	\$73,603 27
Free goods, all other		102,437	
Grand total		\$310,732	\$73,603 27

EXPORTS.

From the port of Victoria, for the month of December, 1891—the produce of Canada:

THE MINE.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Coal	1,161	5,805
Gold bearing quartz, etc.		19,064
THE FISHERIES.		
Fish of all descriptions		59,314
Furs or skins of creatures living in the water		6,240
ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS.		
Furs, dressed and undressed		5,368
Hides, skins, pelts, horns, etc		6,239
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.		
Fruits, green		39
Flour of wheat and rye, bls	375	1,674
Other articles		695
Indian and other meal, bls	100	45
MANUFACTURES.		
Books		55
Spirits	557	1,382
Wood m's of all kinds		150
Miscellaneous Articles		584
Grand total		\$ 108,874
Goods, not the product of Canada, for the month of December, 1891:		
QUANTITY.	VALUE	
Animals and their produce—		
Horses	1	200
Manufactures—		
Manufactures of leather		184
Liquors	2	17
Sewing machines	2	75
Wood—m's of all kinds		990
Other articles		6,939
Miscellaneous articles		6
Coin and gold		5,256
Grand total		\$ 13,676
Total exports of all kinds		\$122,550

hurricane deck of a cayoose for eighty or a hundred miles. It is hoped, however, that ere long this important region will have all rail communication, and when this desirable end has been reached, this province will have entered on an era of prosperity unparalleled in its history and which will place it foremost among the richest and wealthiest provinces of our great Dominion.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway's gross traffic earnings for last year were about \$20,200,000, and the net earnings about \$8,000,000.

In company with Captain Lewis and Captain Gaudin, whom the Dominion Government have appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the wreck of the steamship San Pedro, the Board of Trade has appointed Mr. Robert Ward to act as their representative.

As was also the case in 1890, there was not a single bank failure in Canada in the year 1891, our financial institutions having prospered without that condition being marred by losses of any great extent, while, on the other hand, there were no special occurrences out of which those institutions made great profits. There has been no stringency in money. It is to be noted that \$20,000,000 have been added to the deposit account, some of which was due to transfers from the Government Savings Banks.

New Westminster fishermen are circulating a petition, which will be presented to the Dominion Government, asking for free fishing on the Fraser, and no limit to the number of licenses.

The gold commissioner has refused per mission to the alleged discoverers and locators of quartz bearing rock at the north-east end of Victoria to work those claim and legal proceedings are to be taken to compel the issuance of that permission.