

tons, so that the present weekly output shows an increase of 1,400 tons, and this without a pound of ore from the War Eagle, which has not yet resumed shipments.

Judging then from the output—and this is certainly a good criterion—Rossland mines in output alone now mark the highest average weekly outturn yet reached in the history of its mineral production and shipments.

The ore output of these mines for the whole of 1899 amounted to 172,665 tons. The shipments to September 21 amount to 136,000, leaving a difference of 36,665 tons, which at the present rate of output will be shipped within the next six weeks, or by October 31, and should nothing happen the total shipment of Rossland mines for 1900 will reach 222,000 tons, and probably 235,000, as the War Eagle will, it is now believed, resume shipments before the end of the present year.

This forecast is based on the actual returns as they are furnished by the management, and are not to be confounded with the fiction fancies of the camp enthusiast.

Since the present month was ushered in there has been more than the average activity in Rossland. Labor Day was very creditably celebrated. This was followed by the arrival here of the vice-regal party, His Excellency the Earl of Minto, Governor-General of the Dominion, and suite. The weather was exceedingly fine, and everything passed off most pleasantly. Doubtless the most interesting feature—interesting at all events to the vice-regal party—was the visit to the mines, especially the one to the War Eagle. Photographs of the scenes and incidents connected with this especial visit were taken, and I have been promised some of these views for the Record.

Following these social events came the political nominations for the Dominion House. More than usual interest is being taken in this political contention. The situation has been complicated by the announcement coming from the Trades and Labour Council that the labor organizations are determined to present a candidate in their interests. Whether they will finally adhere to this determination or throw in their support with one or other of the political candidates is yet an unknown quantity.

There is, however, nothing in the aspect of affairs present or future that may be regarded as a disturbing factor in the outlook of the mineral industry here. This outlook is now very bright and encouraging, and there is a profound impression amongst the well informed that this hopeful vision will continue for an indefinite time.

The ore shipments for the mining divisions, exclusive of Rossland, and within East and West Kootenay Districts, including the district of Yale, for the present year up to September 21, amounted to 100,000 tons (an approximate but conservative estimate). This makes the total shipments of ore from the various mining divisions of the two Kootenays and Yale equal to 236,000 tons, which, of course, is the greatest in the history of the mining territory embraced. The value of this tonnage is a debatable point, and the totals, until the smelter returns are available, can only be approximated. The value of the 136,000 tons of Rossland ore is placed at \$16 per unit ton, while the great bulk of the ore from the other divisions being argentiferous lead, is put at \$60 per ton, a third at least is the gold-copper ores of the

Boundary district. The value of those ores is much less than Rossland ores, so that we have 136,000 tons valued at \$2,176,000, 60,000 valued at \$3,600,000 and 40,000 tons valued at \$320,000, being a total of \$5,836,000 gross, which will be subject to reduction when the final returns are made up. This approximation of course is really for nine days less than nine months of 1900, and by the end of the year the gross figures in round numbers would at least be \$7,000,000 for the districts mentioned. The growth of the mineral industry in Southern British Columbia is therefore of a phenomenal character, and it is not surprising that it has attracted the attention not only of capitalists but of statisticians. The volume of increase during the next five years would indeed be worthy of comment.

The prospects of ore shipping by the Le Roi No. 3 (Nickel Plate) are approaching the state when it will be materialized. The new ore bin is about ready. Certain hopes were some-

LE ROI NO 3. time ago entertained that the Evening Star, Giant and I. X. L. would be advanced from the grade of occasional to that of regular, but this fruition must now be postponed for a few months. The Columbia and Kootenay (Le Roi No. 4) will enter the list sooner or later, so that it may be readily inferred ore shipments are becoming one of the active factors in connection with the industry.

Mr. Bernard McDonald has been summoned to Europe, presumably for consultation at headquarters. He is an exceedingly busy man, but he has arranged his affairs so well that his efficient assistants are able to keep things in good shape during his temporary absence.

Mr. William S. Haskins, formerly superintendent of the Nickel Plate here, is in Nevada City, Cal., near which he is working some properties, which are said to be very promising. After leaving here in the early part of the summer, Mr. Haskins made a trip to the mining regions of Mexico, where I am credibly informed he secured for his principals some very promising properties. Through an error it was stated that he had not been successful, but I am reliably informed that his mission there was quite successful.

While legitimate mining never looked better here than it does now, there is no prospect of a revival of the wild work which gave Rossland such an unenviable reputation four years ago. There are still some operators here that are as reckless as ever, but the public has become weary as well as wary.

Mr. W. L. Orde, the efficient secretary-treasurer of the Brandon and Golden Crown, located near Greenwood, has furnished me with the official statistics submitted at the annual meeting of the company held at Greenwood September 28. The B. & G. C. shipped 1,876 tons since it started, and up to the date of the report. As the Record will doubtless publish this report, it is not necessary to give it here. However, I may add that the total receipts from ore were about \$25,000. The smelter returns show a net of at least \$6 per ton after deducting smelter and freight rates. The B. & G. C. seems to be carefully and honestly managed, which, in addition to its good prospects, ought to be very satisfactory to its shareholders.

One of the most important events of the month is