

Canadian gold was less than \$1,000,000.

An Expert Opinion.

In this connection reference may be allowed to an article which recently appeared in *The Journal of the London (Eng.) Society of Arts*, from the pen of Mr. William Hamilton Merritt, the well known Canadian mining expert. Mr. Merritt's paper deals with British Columbia and the Klondike, and the possibilities of these regions, as well as of the work already accomplished. The mountain region continued through Canada from Rossland to the Klondike is 1,300 miles long, and is similar in all essentials to its continuation through American territory, southward to Mexico and to the north through Alaska. In these States and Territories the yield of gold was close on \$1,000,000 in 1894 and had increased to \$52,830,000 in 1897. In the same American territory the yield for 1896 was:—Silver, \$74,877,000; copper, \$33,853,000; lead, \$8,733,000; and mercury, \$1,075,000. This the writer advances as a conclusive proof of the richness of the same mineral area continued through British Columbia. The output of that area has already grown sufficiently large to demand attention. During 1897 the value of placer gold mining was \$513,520 and of lode gold \$2,122,820. In the same year the output of silver was \$3,272,836 and of lead \$1,390,517.

The conclusions reached by Mr. Merritt as to the future of the country are decidedly favorable:—"There is ample timber throughout the whole country. As a rule there is abundance of water, though in some parts of the dry belt in southern British Columbia water is scarce, and in the extreme north the shortness of the summer season makes the supply variable. The climate in the southern part of British Columbia, where the major part of the mining operations are now carried on, is delightful. In the valleys fruit of nearly every sort can be cultivated profusely, and even as far north as the Peace River Valley, cereals can be raised in abundance. A more healthy and vigorous class of humanity it would be difficult to find than those who are met with in the country, and who have lived there for many years, and who, in their own parlance, are known as old-timers." The history of this development, the discoveries already made, and the results obtained from present operations, establish the writer's claim that it is merely a question of search, development and railway communication to make the Prov-

ince of British Columbia and the Yukon district one continuous great mining camp for nearly 1,500 miles, and one of the greatest producers of gold, silver, copper, lead, and perhaps mercury, in the world.

While most of those who have been interested in gold mining in recent years have had their attention directed west or northwestward, it is well not to forget that there are treasures in eastern Canada also. The goldfields of Nova Scotia are computed to cover an area of three thousand square miles, and, according to recent statistics, the total amount of gold taken out up to September 30th, last year is given at 654,919 ozs., valued at \$12,643,495. Without doubt the output would have been vastly in excess of what it is, were it not that local capitalists appear only now to be realizing that gold mining is a business to be conducted on business principles. Climatic conditions are favorable to mining, and operations can be carried on throughout the year. The districts are favorably situated for obtaining supplies, labor is plentiful, the mining law liberal, and wages low. It is therefore surprising that so favorable an opportunity for profitable investment has not so far proved more attractive to British capitalists. In addition to gold, lead, copper and other valuable deposits are known to exist in vast quantities. Coal is also a most important item in Nova Scotia, the output last year amounting to nearly 3,000,000 tons.

Marvellous Development.

The present is without question the day of the west; progress, development and expansion are noticeable on every hand, and in no twelve months has so much been done to open up and settle the vast acreage between Lake Superior and the mountains.

If figures mean anything, the returns of the homestead entries, granted during the twelve months ending September 30th, are most significantly eloquent of the manner in which the west has been developing under the present Administration. From October 1st, 1895, to September 30th, 1896, 1,843 homestead entries were granted; during the following year the number was 2,213 and from October 1st, 1897, to September 30th, 1898, it increased nearly one hundred per cent., the figures being 4,337. Nearly every homestead means a family, and the average family is computed at five persons, so it is reasonable to estimate that more than 21,000 persons have settled during